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### **OPINION METER**

This week's poll:

Do you think the police are being too secretive in their investigation of crimes in the CNMI?

Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

### INSIDE

### **WORLD**



U.N. accuses the Syrian regime of "possible" crimes against humanity.

**➤ PAGE 16** 



Kai Cavalin dislikes is being called a genius. **➤ PAGE 17** 

### **LIFE & STYLE**



Britain's spies were unable to solve the mystery of Charlie Chaplin's **➤ PAGE 20** birth.

# 'Emie' finally goes home



Estrellita Relata, center, weeps as she hugs her sister's closed coffin while relatives and friends console her during a public viewing of Emerita "Emie" Relata Romero's body at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan yesterday. Romero's remains will be flown today to the Philippines where she will be buried, even as the community calls for justice for her.

any people, including acting governor Eloy S. Inos, paid their last respects to slain bartender Emerita 'Emie' Relata Romero at a Mass and public viewing yesterday af-\_ ternoon at the Kristo Rai Church. See EMIE on Page 4

# \$1.8M from 12,000 CW applications remitted to NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' total remittance to the CNMI government is now around \$1.8 million, bringing to some 12,000 the number of foreign workers petitioned for a Commonwealth-only worker status since early October 2011.

Employers pay \$150 in education funding fee for each foreign worker they petition for a CW status as required by U.S. Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal con-

an additional \$200,000 from the last Romero's body at Kristo Rai Church in

time we released information," Inos Garapan yesterday afternoon. "The total remittance is now about told Saipan Tribune in an interview at The last time USCIS released infor-S1.8 million as of Thursday. We got the public viewing for Emerita Relata mation on the number of CW petitions

See \$1.8M on **Page 4** 

## Study: NMC funding per student decreasing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

REPORTER

A peer comparison study conducted by the Northern Marianas College show that funding allocation for every student in the only community college on island has been substantially decreasing compared to the amount being spent by many other states and peer institutions on their students.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart and Office of Institutional Effectiveness director Galvin Deleon Guerrero disclosed these findings to the Board of Regents on Tuesday, emphasizing the

impact this limited funding has in complying with accreditation requirements and standards.

At the state level, NMC's per student allocation of \$6,877 in fiscal year 2007 was significantly lower than the \$7.195 per student allocation among members

See STUDY on Page 4

Big turnout in KES science, wellness Olympiad. PAGE 2 Customs renews call for restoration of 80 hours. PAGE 3

# Local

### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

### **Kagman High PTSA meeting set**

Kagman High School PTSA meeting on Feb. 23, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the school's cafeteria. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend. For more information, call the main office at 237-3840. (PR)

### **NCD** community meeting next week

The public is invited to the NCD Community Meeting scheduled next week Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The premise for this meeting is to engage the community to respond to the burden of non-communicable diseases on our people and to get input from the community on the support needed in order to make successful steps forward.

There will also be a meeting on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 10am (venue to be determined) for those who cannot make it to the Wednesday meeting.

Contact the Division of Public Health at 236-8703 if you have any questions. (PR)

### **Cultural center calendar**

The Inetnon Åmot van Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Falúw is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making titiyas, atuli, and iskoba at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters (1213 Capitol Hill Road, across from the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office) this Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012. The lessons will start at 9:30am to about 12pm. These activities are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Indigenous Affairs Office and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 322-0278 Saipan. (PR)

### **SVES Annual Canary Walkathon**

The Parent, Teacher, Students Association of San Vicente Elementary School will be hosting the Annual Canary Walkathon on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, at the SVES baseball field, from 7am until noon. The public is invited to join to promote a healthier lifestyle for parents, students, and the community. PTSA members have been soliciting support for the event and welcome all donations both monetary and in-kind. For more information, call the school at (670) 237-3791/3 or 237-3761. (PR)

### **Health Care Professions Licensing Board meeting**

The Health Care Professions Licensing Board hereby notifies the general public that it will be holding its board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012, at 3pm. The meeting will be held at conference room No. 3 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan. (PR)

### **Rota Little League opening rites on** Sunday

The Rota Little League Association will have its opening ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012, at 9am, immediately followed by the first game. On Monday the upper division will start off their first game as well. District Administrator James Ada will be arriving from Saipan to witness this memorable event. (PR)

### **Marianas Sailing Club notice**

The free sailing lessons that are normally conducted near the beach close to the Micro intersection will be moved to Tinian today, Feb. 18. The following Saturday the sailing lessons will return to their normal location and time. (PR)

### As sweet as Candyland!

TAGS, a turtle conservation non-profit group, will be hosting the Candyland Party at Godfather's Bar on Feb. 24 at 7:30pm. The group is taking inspiration from the Hasbro classic Candyland for what's sure to be the best party around! Enjoy prizes, silent auction, "crowd favorite" date auction and more as throngs of costumed merrymakers party the night away in blue, purple, and cotton candy! Five dollars gets you in the door for cheap drinks and good times. Come in costume (or not), bring cash for the auction, and prepare your liver for Candyland Saipan

## Big turnout in KES science, wellness Olympiad

By MONETH G. DEPOSA REPORTER

Despite the heavy rain, Koblerville Elementary School had an overwhelming turnout during its annual science and wellness Olympiad yesterday, with hundreds of students enjoying the daylong festivities.

Rizalina Purungganan, Koblerville Elementary School principal, credited the good turnout to the collaborative effort of teachers, students, and community members who also graced the occasion.

Yesterday's activities capped the school's weeklong celebration of the Public School System's Wellness Week, which also highlighted events like the recipe competition and the science technology engineering and math contest held earlier this week.

Purungganan disclosed that, as in previous years, Koblerville's "Olympiad" this year featured 15 various stations that offered fun and learning activities. The Olympiad was launched in 2008 and has since then been a huge success for the school

Of all the stations she visited. fourth-grader Andresina Songao



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Koblerville principal Rizalina Purunganan poses with students and presenters at the Turtles station yesterday on campus

bubble-making booth. Songao, at each booth, also learned more with the help of sixth grade stu- about the human body after visit-

experienced the most fun in the dents who serve as facilitators

A dancer by heart, 10-year-old Stephanie Rejano was seen enjoying herself at the dance station. "Dancing is really fun. I've loved

ing the human anatomy station.

also a form of exercise that's good for our body," she said. Third-graders Rudy Kaipat and John Lester Lebrias were seen participating in a friendly compe-

doing this since I was little. It's

Other stations in this year's Olympiad included paper boat, paper airplane, hula hoop race, parachute, turtles, big parachute, fly a rocket, energy conservation, and ice cream-making booths.

tition at the moonwalk race.

Representatives of some government agencies such as the Division of Fish and Wildlife were also present to answer questions.

One of the event's coordinators, Joe Etpison, said that nearly 300 students participated in the daylong festivities. He believes that by holding the event every year, students are not only provided meaningful, fun, and educational experiences but are also taught based on PSS benchmarks and standards.



Some students and facilitators in yesterday's Olympiad gather for a group photo as they wait for students to come in at the human anatomy station.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Students from different grade levels design their own bubbles during yesterday's science and wellness Olympiad celebration on campus.



MONETH G. DEPOSA Third-graders Ruday Kaipat and John Lester Lebrias enjoy their moments at the Moonwalk Race station, which is among the activities featured in yesterday's Koblerville Elementary School's Science and Wellness Olympiad on campus.

## Customs renews call for restoration of 80 hours biweekly

### >> Corrects number of smuggled cigarettes to 4,000 cartons

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com

Customs Services Division officials and employees renewed their call for the restoration of 80 hours work biweekly during a public hearing yesterday on a bill seeking to allow promotions with salary increases.

Customs director Jesus Muña, at the same time, said the volume of smuggled cigarettes is 4,000 cartons that were seized on Tuesday, correcting the earlier figure of nearly 5,000 cartons that Customs provided. The cigarettes were hidden beneath chips and crackers

"All we want is for the austerity to be lifted for Customs," Muna told Saipan Tribune.

Customs is understaffed, and there are over 10 vacant positions that were funded but were not filled because of hiring timeframe requirements.

The division only has 42 personnel, including the director and those currently assigned to a federal-local task force. Muna said the division needs at least 64 personnel.

Because of 64 work hours biweekly, Customs has limited personnel at any given

Rep. Ray Basa (R-Saipan), meanwhile, said his House Ways and Means Committee is poised to recommend the filing of Senate Bill 17-93 which seeks to amend a law to allow promotions with salary increases, given the government's current financial state.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and Office of Management and Budget's Vicky Villagomez also expressed reservation about the bill, saying the government has no funding to increase salaries at a time when work hours could

## 3 more NMC Nursing grads pass NCLEX on first try

Northern Marianas College recently took and passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, or

NLCEX-RN.

"We are very proud of our nursing graduates and new RNs Elde Aque, Sharisse Rivera, and Min Seon 'Mindy' Park for passing the NCLEX-RN on their first attempt," said NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa M. Tudela.

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all 50 United States and all U.S. territories to award nurse licenses. Licensed nurses may have their credentials endorsed by a state or

a territory's board upon meeting board requirements without having to retake the exam.

"This exam is both difficult and critical to pass, and we are extremely happy that they continued to maintain their record of achievement," said Tudela.

Both Aque and Park graduated from NMC cum laude, while Rivera graduated magna cum laude. Park is also the recipient of the NMC Alumni Association's Community Service Award, while Rivera received the Best in Clinical Award from the NMC Nursing department.

Three 2011 graduates of the They were also active members of the NMC Nursing Club, as well as many other organizations and groups within the College and community.

> For Ague her inspiration for becoming a nurse came from watching home health nurses care for her grandmother that made her "think that the profession [of nursing] was pretty cool." Park also noted that experiences with her mother sparked the interest, while Rivera notes that it was her interest "in the field of science" that drew her to nursing.



Aque

Park

dent. She plans on later pursuing a bachelor's degree in Nurs-

"Attending NMC was a good experience," said Park. She now hopes "to get a job, build experience as a nurse, and pursue a bachelor's degree in Nursing, as well as a masters."

For more information about the NMC Nursing program, contact the NMC Nursing Department at 234-5498 Ext. 1616 or visit their offices in Building C at the NMC As Terlaje campus (Monday-Friday, 8am -4:30pm). (NMC)

hours biweekly.

their support for Customs to of their function, including But Basa and Rep. Ray have an 80-hour work week ensuring that imported goods among other things.

not even be restored to 80 Yumul (R-Saipan) reiterated because of the critical nature coming into the CNMI are taxed and free of illegal drugs,

### Healthy 'Grilled Fruits' recipe wins DES cooking contest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com

Dandan Elementary School students on Wednesday put their culinary skills to the test for the honor of representing their school at the Public School System's islandwide cooking contest next month.

From smoothies to salads, the six aspiring chefs prepared their special recipes that had colorful and creative presentations.

Each entry was adjudged based on taste, appearance, customer appeal, and nutritional value. Recipes should also correspond to the overall theme, 'What's In Your Plate?"

Rachel Reyes, cooking contest coordinator and third grade teacher at Dandan Elementary School, said this is the first time that the school held a cooking competition for students who can join individually or form a team of up to three members.



Dandan Elementary School principal Martha Kintol and third grade teacher Rachel Reyes join participants of the cooking contest for a group photo at the school cafeteria on Wednesday.

different things that are all natu-

ral because they didn't use any

additives. They're all good and

In the end, it was the "Grilled

"This is our first time to hold this event and the kids really enjoyed it. It was awesome and I'm very happy with the recipes," Reyes said.

LSG Sky Chefs' Heather Camacho, one of the judges, said she had a hard time evaluating the recipes because they all tasted delicious and healthy.

Fruits" creation of third grader Tivana Torres, her brother and fourth grader Vincent Torres III, and second grader cousin Jesse Taitano who earned the nods of

the judges as the best.

delicious," she said.

The winning team won gift

"I'm really happy that we won. I'm excited that our team will represent our school in the cooking contest," said third grader Tivana Torres.

Rowina Torres, mother of Tivana and Vincent, said she took time off work to support her children and nephew as they joined the cooking contest.

"I'm excited for them. My daughter has been asking me for weeks to help them prepare for the contest," said Rowina Torres, who is the general

"The students came up with manager and part-owner of Coral Ocean Point.

> According to Rowina Torres, all three children always help in the kitchen at home.

"My daughter loves to bake and she even has a personalized apron. They all did a great job and I'm proud of them," she told Saipan Tribune.

In second place was second grader Abigail Decena, with her "Fruit Delight with Oatmeal Cookies," which she learned from her mom Ella.

"I want to join again next year and hopefully win first place," said Decena, 8.

School principal Martha Kintol commended all the students for coming up with healthy recipes.

"For these junior chefs to show interest at this age is something that I know is great and shows an encouraging message to other students. I have no doubt that the winners will represent our school well in the competition," she added.



From left, Vincent Torres III, Tivana Torres, and Jesse Taitano prepare their winning recipe called "Grilled Fruits" during the competition held at the Dandan Elementary School cafeteria last Feb. 15.



Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. USDA Departe
  b. ESG Comments
  c. FY 2011 Audit Update
  d. HUD CPD Grant Amounts
  e. Garapan Annex RFP
  f. NMIRF Loan Portfolio Sale
  g. Garapan Ponding Basin Clean Up with CRM
  IV. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAM
  a. RD Undate

  - a. RD Update
    b. HOME Program Loans For Approval
    c. February, 7 & 14 Auctions Update
    d. Lot 001 C 57 Bid Offer
  - e. Other Loan Matters
    COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- a. CDBG Update
  b. Section 108 Analysis
  VI. PROGRAM & HOUSING
  a. Utility Allowance Update
  b. Purchase of additional Government Vehicle for TMD
  VII. FISCAL AFFAIRS
  a. Unaudited Financial Statement as of January 30, 2012. a. Unaudited Financial Statement as of January 30, 2012
  b. Budget for FY2013
  VIII.FIELD REPORT
  a. This Prof.
- a. Tinian Field Office Reports b. Rota Field Office Reports EXECUTIVE SESSION OTHER MATTERS a. Ground Maintenance for To
- a. Ground Maintenance for Tottotville's Common Area (Entrance Only)
  b. Second Burglary of NMHC's Two Storage Rooms
  XI. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employed

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### Pickup truck driver not guilty of vehicular homicide

### >> Not guilty of reckless driving but guilty of 6 traffic infractions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.con

A Superior Court jury has found the driver of a pickup truck not guilty of vehicular homicide in the death of his 15-year-old nephew who died after falling from the back of the truck in August last year.

After deliberating for about three hours, the jurors reached a unanimous verdict finding 21-year-old Vincent Felix Lieto Fitial not guilty of vehicular homicide.

The jurors reached the verdict after finding that Fitial did not violate the traffic infractions of reckless driving, operating a pickup truck with people sitting in bed of truck when there was seating available in the cab of the vehicle, and driving on right side of highway.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman, who also had to rule on the three traffic violations, found the defendant guilty onwo counts—sitting in bed of truck and driving on right side of highway. Wiseman, however, found Fitial not guilty of reckless driving.

As Fitial did not dispute the four other counts, Wiseman found him guilty of the charges. The four charges are driving without a driver's license, driving a motor vehicle without a vehicle registration card, operating a motor vehicle without having the vehicle registered or safety inspected, and operating a vehicle without liability insurance.

For driving without an driver's li-

cense, Wiseman sentenced Fitial to 30 days in prison, all suspended, and placed him on six months or probation and required him to pay a \$500 fine.

For the remaining charges, the judge ordered Fitial to pay a total of \$525 in fine and probation fee.

Michael Evangelista, counsel for Fitial, told the media after the hearing that they are very pleased with the verdict and are very thankful to the jurors, the judge, and court staff.

"Overall we thank God for the very nice verdict. This is a tragic incident as we have stated from the beginning. It was just an unavoidable accident, we maintained that from the very beginning," Evangelista said. Viola Alepuyo is Evangelista's co-counsel in the case.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll said they are a bit disappointed with the result.

"But this case is more than just about this defendant. We are hoping that this will raise the level of awareness maybe in the Commonwealth about the dangers of riding in the back seat of pickup trucks," Driscoll said.

Driscoll said they are hoping that people will be more careful in the future and be more aware of the law.

Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal also served as counsel for the government in the case.

Wilben Herman Lieto fell from the truck on Aug. 31, 2011, on a dirt road in Tanapag. He died the following day due to head injuries.

Witnesses said there were three of them, including Lieto, in the back of the truck being driven by Fitial.

The group had just attended a family member's funeral at Tanapag Cemetery. They were on their way home when the accident happened.

One witness estimated that the truck was traveling at least 20 miles per hour and Fitial avoided two potholes on the road.

Witnesses said as Lieto was spitting over the car's edge when he fell down when the truck hit the second pothole.

# 4 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the PauPau Beach, American Memorial Park, Micro Beach, and Hafadai Hotel Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)



Relata during a public viewing of Emerita "Emie" Relata Romero's body at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan yesterday. Romero's coffin remained closed as the body was already decomposing, according to friends and relatives.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting governor

Eloy S. Inos,

left, consoles

Estrellita

## EMIE From Page 1

Romero's remains will be flown to the Philippines today, Saturday, at 6am, aboard a Delta Air Lines flight via Japan. It is expected to arrive in Manila at 10:30pm. Romero's siblings, Eduardo Relata and Estrellita "Lhet" Relata, will accompany the body.

"What happened to my sister, Emie, was really tragic and heartbreaking for all of us who loved and cared for her. We are still hopeful and praying that justice will prevail," Eduardo Relata read a statement during the Mass.

He thanked everyone who supported and sympathized with their family in their time of grief.

"Emie, please don't worry. We will take care of your daughters. Thank you for loving us and supporting us in every way you can," said Eduardo Relata, tears sliding down his cheeks.

During the public viewing after the

Mass, acting governor Inos approached Romero's sealed casket and expressed his condolences to the Relatas.

Inos told the media that Romero's killing is a "very unfortunate and tragic" incident.

"It's a sad day to the family, and to the many friends and relatives and acquaintances here in the Commonwealth." Inos said.

He vowed that the Fitial administration will do its best to bring Romero's killer to justice. He said that Police Commissioner Ramon Mafnas and his team are working hard to solve this case.

"On behalf of our administration, I extend our condolences to the family," Inos said.

Fr. Noynoy Recaido, who officiated the Mass, urged people to unite as one family and one community in seeking justice for "our sister Emie."

"The pain that we have will remain if each and everyone of us will not help each other to find justice and to look for the real truth," Recaido said. Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, who attended the Mass, told *Saipan Tribune* that they are urging federal and local authorities to do everything they can to arrest the killer.

Pastor Manuelito Rey said it is sad that this thing happened to such a small island but believes it is a wake up call for the entire community to be more vigilant. "To the community, it is important that we exercise justice for everyone."

Ron E. Biggers and Scott Dottino, owners of Godfather's Bar where Romero worked as a bartender, attended the Mass together with the bar's staff, relatives, and friends.

After the public viewing ended at 2pm, the remains were taken to a funeral parlor, which will bring the body to the airport today, at 4am.

Romero was last seen alive boarding a green or blue tinted sedan around 3am on Feb. 5 in Garapan. FBI agents found her body two days later in the northernmost building of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

### **STUDY**

From Page 1

of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

NMC's per student allocation briefly went up to \$7,835 in fiscal year 2008 before seesawing back to \$6,124 in fiscal year 2009 and dropping further to \$4,259 per student in fiscal year 2010.

On average, WICHE's per student allocation in fiscal year 2010 was \$5,777, while average funding for U.S. states was \$6,454.

Among peer institutions—schools and colleges in the Western Pacific—NMC's budget per student is \$6,124, below the average per student allocation of \$8,462.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that Guam's funding per student is \$11,971 while Nevada's is \$8,190. In New Mexico, the allocation per student is \$10,211.

Among peer institutions, NMC only surpassed Florida, which has a per-student funding of \$5,815.

NMC's student allocation is significantly lower than Guam Community College, which has a \$13,328 budget per student; Great Basin College in Nevada with \$9,054 per student; and Northern New Mexico College, with \$9,871 per student. The average state local funding per student in these institutions is \$8,862.

Although funding cuts are evident in almost all states and institutions, Deleon Guerrero said that NMC is experiencing substantial decreases in the amount it allocates its students despite the increasing number of students every year.

In fiscal year 2011, NMC was allocated only \$4.2 million by the local government, significantly lower than the \$5.6 million and \$5.5 million it got in 2010 and 2009. In fiscal year 2008, the college only got \$4.9 million, a huge drop from the \$6.5 million it got in fiscal year 2007.

Hart described the per-student allocation at NMC as "very underfunded" and a "red flag." She said the college's financial standing will have a grave impact on the "sustainability" goals for the institution.

### **Success rates**

Based on the quality effectiveness report presented by Deleon Guerrero, NMC has had numerous success rates in many areas. The data were collected and tracked pursuant to the college's new policy on monitoring effectives.

There are 16 core indicators used to measure the effectiveness of the college's programs and services. These indicators were adopted from the American Association of Community Colleges.

Data presented to the board indicated that NMC has a good graduation rates in the past several years. The following are NMC's graduation rates: 2004-2005 (14 percent); 2005-2006 (20 percent); 2006-2007 (24 percent); 2007-2008 (9 percent); and 2008-2009 (16 percent). The graduation rate is determined when students complete a course within four years.

Compared to peers and the national graduation rates average of 15 percent, Deleon Guerrero said that NMC's average graduation rate of between 15 and 25 percent is "good numbers."

In terms of transfer rates, or students moving out from NMC, the transfer rate for liberal arts was 58 percent in 2005-2006; 62 percent in 2006-2007; 50 percent in 2007-2008; 68 percent in 2008-2009; and 63 percent in 2009-2010.

For the business degree, the transfer rates are as follows: 2006-2007 (50 percent); 2008-2009 (33 percent); 2009-2010 (33 percent).

"We have to remember that not all of them [transfers] go on to four-year college, some of them enter the work-force. So anything about 40 percent for transfer rate is really a good number. So our liberal arts is doing very well," said Deleon Guerrero.

NMC also has a successful licensure pass rates for both NCLEX and Praxis tests.

In 2005-2006, the college posted 92 percent passing rate for NCLEX and 100 percent passed the Praxis that same year.

In 2006-2007, NCLEX remained on top with 88 percent passing rate and 60 percent for Praxis; in 2007-2008, the NCLEX passing rate was 90 percent while that of Praxis was at 63 percent. In 2008-2009, the NCLEX passing rate was 55 percent while that of Praxis was at 67 percent. In 2009-2010, 75 percent passed the NCLEX.

As for its job placement rates, Deleon Guerrero said the data shows that for every four graduates at the NMC, three of them get jobs, mostly in their fields or related courses.

### \$1.8M

From Page 1

received was in mid-December, saying that as of Dec. 9, there were 11,019 alien workers petitioned for CW status. That number corresponds to over \$1.65 million in education funding fee.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said that with the \$1.8 million received from USCIS so far, that means there are already 12,000 CW petitions filed.

Money collected from the CW petition filings is supposed to be used by the CNMI to train U.S. workers who will fill the void left by foreign workers who have left or will leave the Commonwealth. Most private sector jobs are held by foreign workers, while government jobs are mostly held by U.S. workers.

Specifically, the funds will go to the Public School System and Northern Marianas College to help with their vocational education and training programs and boost the local labor pool. The CNMI's fiscal year 2012 budget also requires at least \$500,000 of the CW education funding fee to go to PSS.

Inos said the Public School System has yet to provide a spending plan to the administration, thus no money can be released to PSS out of the CW account.

"We didn't give them a timeline. If they need the money for that purpose, they're going to give us a spending plan. We cannot use the money for anything else. The cash is not mingled," Inos added.

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan has yet to respond to media questions whether PSS is now working on such a spending plan.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), who introduced a bill that would help direct the use of CW education funding fee, said he hopes that the money will be used for its intended purpose. He also said that the money is subject to auditing.

USCIS was not able to meet its self-imposed Jan. 31, 2012, deadline to adjudicate all CW petitions filed on or before Nov. 28, 2011. USCIS has also not released data as to how many CW petitions have been approved and denied so far.





Nongshin





Diamond

**G** Rice

50lbs



Oil 5gal

**MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED** 



### FAMILY BAG

Stew Chicken	\$6.99
Chicken Leg Qtr	\$5.99
Chicken Wings	\$11.99
Beef Stew	\$12.99
Pork Hock	\$6.99
Beef Feet	\$7.99
Beef Shortribs	\$15.99
Pork Adobo	\$9.99
Pork Bellies	\$11.99
Pork Chop	\$11.99
Pork Spareribs	\$6.99

### P.R. Jasmin Rice 20kg.

Pork Spareribs

20lbs

0x & Palm

**\$299** 

Beach Cliff

Sardines

Corned Beef



**Baby Spareribs** 10lbs



Campbells

Chicken

Noodle

89¢

Hormel

Beans

**\$1**69

Chili with

## **GROCERIES**

DelMonte

99¢

Hormel Mary

Kitchen Corned

Beef Hash

**\$ 1** 99

Whole

Corn





99







BEVERAGE

Jammers



Broccoli

Garlic

Chicken Leg

**Quarter** 

33lbs

Onion



PRODUCE

Potato







Spam All Kinds

\$239

Ace of

Tuna

Diamond



**Black Label** 

Luncheon

\$179

Century

Tuna

Kellogg's Corn

Pops



Sugar

2kg



Corn

Starch

99



Hormel

No Beans

**\$1** 79

Chili



Medal

Flour

\$349



Morton

Salt



\$1399 CASE











Whole

Can

Chicken



\$399



Juice

**\$Q39** 



Kellogg's Apple

Jacks

\$399







**\$\_169** 





**\$£49** 

Vlasic Sliced Dill Pickle \$599

State

**S2**99







































135 a.

















Aluminum Foil

\$699 20050.FI 200SQ.FT. 6 SATURDAY - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18-19, 2012 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Opinion



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AP The Associated Press

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### **EDITORIAL**

# China's human rights record can't be ignored

hina's one-party government is undergoing a leadership change, and both the United States and China have an interest in building constructive relationships.

Vice President Joe Biden visited China last August. This week, China's Vice President Xi Jinping is in the United States.

This is no ordinary visit. Xi is one of nine members of the Standing Committee of the Politburo and vice chair of China's Central Military Commission. He is expected to become head of the ruling Communist Party in the fall, and president of China in the spring of 2013.

So this is an important opportunity to address sensitive military issues in the Pacific, economic trade issues, international issues such as Iran and Syria—and, the ever-present irritant in U.S.-China relations, human rights—with the future leader of China.

Even as we seek cooperation and stronger ties in many areas, this is no time to shy away from candid conversations on human rights.

That includes the situation in Tibet. A timely, penetrating and risky piece by McClatchy Newspapers' Tom Lasseter details the situation of ethnic Tibetans in Sichuan province in southwestern China. Since last March, nearly two dozen have set themselves on fire in an unprecedented show of protest against Chinese rule.

Lasseter points out that for his report, a McClatchy reporter "hid on the rear floor of a vehicle under two backpacks and a sleeping bag as it passed through multiple checkpoints." This is the only way the outside world learns what's going on. The Chinese government, he notes, "goes to extensive lengths" to block outsiders from the area. The Internet, of course, is shut off or censored.

As Lasseter writes, the government has built many projects to improve living standards in the province, but ethnic Tibetans "chafe at the government restrictions on free expression of their culture and religious practices."

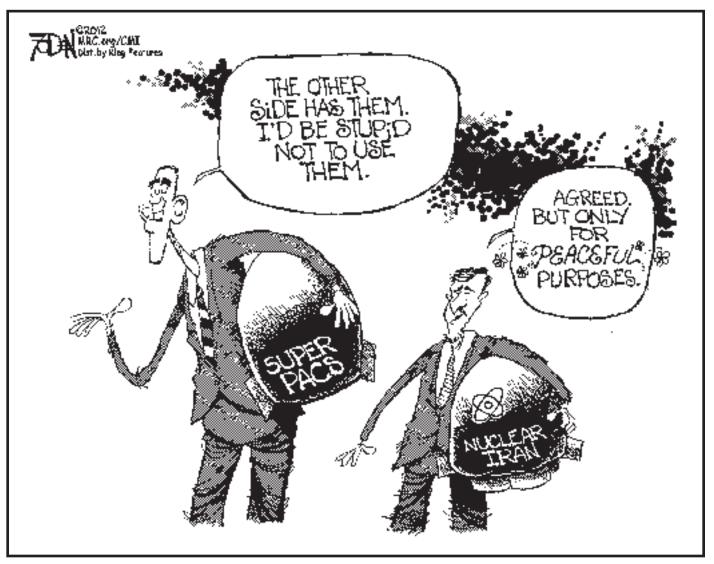
During his visit, Xi already is urging that the two nations stick to "core interests"—that is, non-interference in China's domestic affairs. Speaking on Wednesday, he said he wants the United States to "honor its commitment to recognizing Tibet as a part of China and oppose Tibetan independence and handle Tibetan issues in a prudent and proper manner."

That does not mean turning a blind eye to events, however. The United States has to be true to its own values of freedom of speech and assembly, and freedom from arbitrary authority.

And even as U.S. businesses press for closer ties and loosening of Chinese trade restrictions, Americans also should be attentive to working conditions in China—such as plants where Apple computer products are assembled.

Clearly, the United States and China have an interest in working through difficulties to forge a long-term relationship. As former diplomat Henry Kissinger has written in his book "On China," consensus "may be difficult," but confrontation is "self-defeating."

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## A new China, a new test for the US

he palace intrigue surrounding the shape of China's next leadership is thick. Rumors abound about who's up, who's down and who's out. What is fairly certain is that Vice President Xi Jinping, who arrived Thursday in Los Angeles for a visit, will become general-secretary of the Communist Party in November and China's next president in March 2013.

What we do not yet know is who will fill the remaining open slots on the powerful Politburo Standing Committee, as seven of the nine members retire. That matters because the next president is unlikely to become a strongman, as in China's past. The leadership is becoming more and more oligarchic, with the members of the Standing Committee ruling by consensus. Mao Tse-tung and Deng Xiaoping led by decree. Xi will have to broker.

Xi will head a Communist Party that is increasingly split into two factions: the "populists" and the "elitists." Xi's father served as a vice premier under Mao, which makes Xi a "princeling"—a privileged child of Communist Party royalty. Xi's experience in running three advanced regions of China further aligns him with the elitists, who represent China's entrepreneurs. However, Xi was among the urban youths that Mao sent to live and work in the countryside, and he lived his teenage years in poverty in a cave home. From that experience, he surely must have some sympathy for a populist agenda.

Xi and his colleagues will have to contend with the elitist/populist rivalry at the same they're tackling daunting domestic problems. Air pollution, an aging population, a serious shortage of clean water and the growing gap in wealth have all become so serious that there is little room for error in their management.

The economic model that has propelled China forward so fast is no longer sustainable, but powerful entrenched interests are resisting the transition from investing and export-led growth to growth fueled by domestic consumption. Continued endemic corruption, meanwhile, is weakening the political system and sowing distrust among the people. The government is brutally suppressing local protests as well as intellectuals' calls for reform.

Understandably, China's leaders do not see their nation as the unstoppable giant that Americans do. They see potential chaos around every corner. These insecurities are one factor that feeds suspicions of America's motives among many Chinese—leaders and the people alike. It is becoming a mainstream view that the United States wants to weaken China or even "contain" it.

President Obama's trip to Asia in November, which heralded an overdue rebalancing of U.S. foreign policy toward Asia, fanned the flames of these concerns, as many in China saw each American initiative as part of a plan to encircle China, from the first U.S. troop presence in Australia to a new trade arrangement that demands high labor, environmental and intellectual property standards from the countries that join.

### By NINA HACHIGIAN

Los Angeles Times

Nina Hachigian is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. Her most recent report on U.S.-China relations is Managing Insecurities Across the Pacific. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



China does not have a monopoly on insecurity, however. Americans are worried about our economic future as the economy recovers at a slow pace. The specter of China's rapid growth throws America's troubles into sharp relief. Many Americans resent their jobs moving to China and Beijing's unfair trading practices.

Until the United States gets back on track with investments in education, innovation and other areas, continued economic insecurity in our country will lead many Americans to see China as more of a predatory, unstoppable economic engine than it is. This misperception will combine with China's insecurity about American intentions, causing, in turn, more Chinese to see America as a predatory, powerful political and military machine.

The United States needs to manage China's suspicions because America needs China's assistance on some key challenges. Rebalancing the global economy and developing clean energy are joint projects. Solving the quandaries of Iran and North Korea requires China's assistance.

So as the United States ramps up in Asia, it needs to continue to assure China that America welcomes its prosperity. While the U.S. pushes and prods China to follow international rules, especially when it comes to trade and human rights, it should continue to seek to expand cooperation in other areas and strengthen underutilized channels such as military-to-military, student exchanges and tourism.

Any perceived U.S. aggression only encourages nationalist hardliners in China. The United States should not give these political players any assistance in the current power struggle.

It is easy to get caught up in the weekly drama of the U.S.-China relationship, especially during election season. Whether China continues to grow stronger or stumbles from its many internal problems, it is not going anywhere. America has to play the long game and get China policy right, not just for this month or year but for this decade and century. We are interdependent and stuck with one another.

Los Angelenos have an easier time with this reality than some of their friends inside the Capital Beltway. Xi's visit here may lay the groundwork for more trust. Or at least less suspicion.

### **EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions

consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

### I will always love you

hitney Houston in our throat comes either as praise or complaint. The complaint issues from despair over the deterioration of a career splendidly accompanied by an undeniably wide-ranged and deeply moving voice. The praise emanates from the unequalled experience of being transposed and transformed by a transcendent voice into the realm of eerie euphoria and goose bumps.

Daughter of songstress Cissy Houston, of African-American-Native-American-Dutch descent, Whitney grew up with impressive singing influences. Niece to Dionne and Dee Dee Warwick, and goddaughter to Aretha Franklin, influenced by the likes of Gladys Knight, Roberta Flack, and Chaka Khan, makes her a singer of impeccable pedigree. Her influence on those who followed her on the microphone is just as immense and comprehensive.

We remember her most with her signature song *I Will Always Love You* from the movie *The Bodyguard* with Kevin Costner. Also, she left an indelible mark as a fashion model before becoming a singing sensation when she refused to have anything to do with companies doing business in apartheid South Africa, earning Nelson Mandela's eternal gratitude. When the ex-prisoner and later SA President visited the Clinton White House, he specifically asked that Whitney did the entertainment honors.

The timber of her song went beyond the quality of her voice. We were particularly touched by her rendition of the 1988 Seoul Olympics song, providing us with a singular statement about the nature and direction of our life. While *One Moment In Time* alluded to an Olympiad's attainment at the medal stand, the song struck at the time as an affirmation of the totality of our existence.

From then on, I started characterizing my one 86-year long journey from womb-to-tomb as my "one moment in time." In 1988, we trained new college graduates in the task of soil and water conservation in three watersheds in the Visayan Islands, the Philippines,

challenging our young colleagues with the question of vocation rather than a paycheck since we asked them to live in remote communities where the task was to engage community people to protect, maintain, and sustain the integrity of the natural resource in their communities, from the nearshores to the uplands.

One Moment In Time was one of the songs that 40-some young people sang together when they synergistically met quarterly to report on and plan for their locations. It also became my own mantra when rehearsing my beginning as the product of a creative duo, from the moment of my conception making it out of 200 million sperms to fertilize an egg who we now know emitted hormonal juice to assist the chosen sperm that I was. In union, the sperm and the egg created a most incredible and complex organism that would be me, all in only nine months! The 86-year journey image became our one moment in time, from conception to the achievement of our dying in 2031.

That we come to celebrate the completed life of Whitney Houston when she is not yet 49 attests to a stormy life challenged by the turbulence of marital relations and the easy access to drugs in living a pressured existence. That her death does not come as a surprise to associates does not come as a surprise to her followers either. Tragedy after all seems to be the strongest pull on the heartstrings.

That her terminus comes in the love month of February when the world normally celebrates the ways of heartbeats and heartthrobs is poignant, more so in our China where beyond the chocolate and red roses of commercialized 14th of February is the indelible practice of its real Heart Day the *Qi Xi Jie*, the seventh day of the seventh lunar month. China's Valentines Day is the sad story of a common cowherd and a royal weaver girl, falling in love, forgetting their social responsibilities and obligations in the force, power, and passion of their romance, thereby earning the ire and condemnation of the

### By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol. com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



Emperor for them to meet only once a year during the double seven. Whitney Houston' *I Will Always Love You* blares in China's commercial loudspeakers this week in the same way as Michael Jackson's moonwalk videos dominated visuals not too long ago when the singer himself evidently succumbed to the false comfort of prescription drugs.

Our archive is graced in images of Saipan's Mt. Tapochau, of memories hard to forget but now confined in digitized frames and celluloid dreams. Our love longings lead to our nephew's room in a two-story residence out of Aloha's Ewa Beach, though we are now ensconced in the cold of *Dong Bei* where the promise of spring is only in the calendar while our veins still brave and endure minus 25C weather.

Thus, the pathos of Houston's tragic cessation of breath and song remains simply now an item in our memory, much as our lives are mostly lived in what has been, at once regretted and praised. Still, because we once loved and are enabled and empowered to love again, Whitney's voice will be with us a long while to remind us of that fact.

So now, to Whitney and her fans, because she sweetly and angelically elevated and expressed the yearnings of our romantic soul, she will always live in us, even as we dare to sing and love again!

### Regionalism: United we stand?

ORTLAND, Maine—In U.S. presidential campaigns, you can expect to hear a lot about the Founding Fathers, and how their ideals, intents and spiritual beliefs are allegedly in sync with those of whichever candidate is speaking of them at the time. In contentious times like ours, the Founders are regularly summoned from their graves to provide direction. If we could only recognize and embrace their instructions, the candidates argue, then we could find our lost sense of common purpose, restore our civic virtue, and finally return the Union to unity.

But these arguments are frustrated by the simple fact that the men who came together to confront a common enemy in 1775 and to craft an enduring alliance in 1789 were not our country's founders, but rather the founders' great- or great-great-, or great-great-greatgreat-grandchildren.

The real founders—early-17th-century Puritans and Dutch West India Company officials, mid-17th-century English aristocrats, late-17th-century West Indian slave lords and English Quakers, early-18th-century frontiersmen from Ulster and the lowlands of Scotland, and so on—didn't create an America; they created several Americas.

Some of these American societies championed individualism, others utopian social reform. Some believed themselves guided by divine purpose, others by freedom of conscience and inquiry. Some embraced an Anglo–Protestant identity, others ethnic and religious pluralism. Some valued equality and democratic participation, others deference to a traditional aristocratic order modeled on the slave states of classical antiquity.

Throughout the Colonial period these separate regional cultures regarded one another as competitors, and occasionally as enemies, as was the case during the English Civil War, when Royalist Virginia stood against Puritan Massachusetts, or when New Netherland and New France were invaded and occupied by English-speaking soldiers, statesmen, and merchants.

Only when London began treating its colonies as a single unit—and enacted policies threatening to nearly all—did some of these distinct societies briefly come together to win a war of liberation and create a joint government. Nearly all of them would seriously consider leaving this new union in the 80-year period after the Battle of Yorktown; two went to war to do so in the 1860s: the Deep South and Tidewater.

All of these centuries-old cultures are still with us today and have spread their people, ideas, and influence across mutually exclusive

bands of the continent.

America's most essential and abiding divisions are not between red states and blue states, conservatives and liberals, capital and labor, blacks and whites, the faithful and the secular. Rather, our divisions stem from this fact: The United States is a federation composed of the whole or part of 11 regional nations, some of which truly do not see eye to eye with one another. These nations respect neither state nor international boundaries, bleeding over the U.S. frontiers with Canada and Mexico as readily as they divide California, Texas, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

Despite the rise of Walmart, Starbucks, and the Internet, there is little indication that they are melting into some sort of unified American culture. On the contrary, since 1960 the fault lines between these nations have been growing wider, fueling culture wars, constitutional struggles, and ever more frequent pleas for unity.

Recognizing the presence and fundamental characteristics of these rival regional cultures makes our history a lot easier to understand. It illustrates why certain parts of British North America remained Loyalist in the Revolution—or tried to remain neutral—and often had different interpretations of what the struggle was actually about. It offers a much clearer explanation for the geographical alignments on the eve of the attack on Fort Sumter, when only one part of the future Confederacy had seceded and only one slice of the Union was willing to take up arms to stop them, and almost everyone expected the U.S. to break into three or four parts

The same fault lines appear on county-level maps of most closely contested presidential elections in our history, and in recent congressional debates over health care reform, financial industry regulation, and the debt ceiling. You can see it in the contrasting policy records of (Yankeedom native) Mitt Romney and (Deep Southern-raised) Newt Gingrich and, indeed, the geography of their support in the early primary contests.

It clarifies our debates over immigration and the American identity, in which proponents of contradictory arguments each believe they are articulating longstanding American ideals. But what's rarely understood is that each of these is rooted in a different regional cultural tradition. The Quaker-founded Midlands—a narrow tier of our heartland stretching from Philadelphia to Iowa—always saw itself as an ethnic mosaic, with peoples of many cultures and languages living side by side.

Puritan-founded Yankeedom-stretching from New England to

### By COLIN WOODARD

The Free Lance-Star (Fredericksburg, Va.)

Colin Woodard's most recent book is American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America (Viking.) Readers may send him email at colin@colinwoodard. com. He wrote this for The Free Lance-Star (Fredericksburg, Va.).



the Upper Great Lakes states—argued instead that we were a melting pot into which immigrants were to be assimilated into Anglo—Protestant cultural norms, Calvinist work ethic and all. The Yankee idea looked perfectly insane from the vantage of El Norte, the Spanish borderlands in northern Mexico and parts of what is now the southwestern U.S., where the "Anglos" were the 19th-century immigrants.

For the past two centuries, federal politics has largely been a struggle between two shifting coalitions, one led by Yankeedom, the other by the Deep South. In recent decades, neither has been able to build a bloc large enough to control the levers of federal power on its own, which has made the great "swing nation" of the Midlands the kingmaker in our presidential contests. Midlander culture shares the Yankee emphasis on the common good, but is also deeply skeptical of government, wishing it to leave their communities in peace.

This has made its people ambivalent—and, thus, up for grabs—in the epic battles between the superpowers to their north and south. It's no accident that most of the great battleground states have a great swath of Midland territory, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Missouri. Win over Midlanders and you're likely to win a presidential contest; scare them with extreme positions to the left or right, and you most certainly will not.

Despite all this, our Balkanized federation has survived and, yes, thrived. But it has not done so because of shared fealty to a single American creed or a set of common principles held by our Founders, be they the 17th-century or 18th-century variety. Rather, it is because our leaders have brokered—and sometimes enforced—compromises between our disparate founding cultures. If we're to succeed going forward, our representatives in the federal capital—from the president on down—will need to re-learn this dying art.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

### 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

**▲86° ▼76°** 



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

**▲** 86° ▼ 76°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲86° ▼76°** 



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

**▲** 86° ▼ 76°



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

**▲86° ▼76°** 

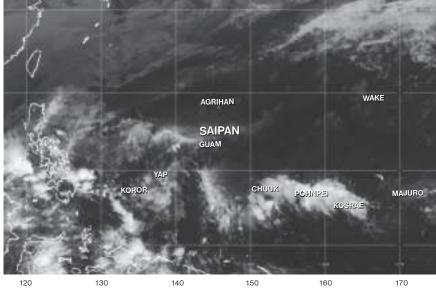
### **Micronesia**

	Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 85	<b>▼</b> 77
	Palau	Thunderstorms	<b>▲</b> 86	<b>▼</b> 78
	Yap	Showers	<b>▲</b> 89	<b>▼</b> 78
	Chuuk	Thunderstorms	<b>\$</b> 89	<b>▼</b> 79
	Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	<b>▲</b> 84	<b>▼</b> 79
	Kosrae	Thunderstorms	<b>▲</b> 84	<b>▼</b> 79
	Majuro	Showers	<b>▲</b> 86	<b>▼</b> 79

### **Around The Globe**

Auckland	Showers	<b>▲</b> 71	<b>▼</b> 63
Beijing	Sunny	<b>4</b> 4	▼18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 62	<b>▼</b> 53
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 79	<b>▼</b> 69
London	Showers	<b>▲</b> 50	₹35
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 62	▼47
Manila	Thundershowers	<b>▲</b> 84	₹76
Melbourne	Thundershowers	<b>▲</b> 79	<b>▼</b> 61
Miami	Partly Cloudy	<b>≜</b> 82	<b>▼</b> 69
New York	Mostly Sunny	<b>▲</b> 51	<b>▼</b> 36
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 43	₹31
Paris	Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 49	₹35
Pusan	Sunny	<b>4</b> 1	₹26
Rome	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 59	<b>▼</b> 40
Salem	Showers	<b>▲</b> 45	▼36
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 56	<b>▼</b> 43
Seoul	Sunny	<b>\$</b> 35	▼18
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	<b>▲</b> 44	₹29

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough runs southeastward from near Mindanao through 4N130E to end at EQ137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near the trough axis or west and south of Koror within 80 miles of a line from 9N130E to EQ138E. A surface trough extends northward from EQ143E to 12N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near this feature east of Yap within 155 miles of a line from 12N141E to 1N144E. Scattered showers are seen farther east over Guam and Rota but west of Chuuk within 85 miles of a line from 14N143E to 1N151E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei and south of Chuuk within 130 miles of a line from 2N153E to 8N158E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers over Kosrae and Majuro between 2N and 10N from 160E to 180.

#### **Tides** Saipan Harbor 6:13 AM Today High Tide: 1.7 Feet 11:11 AM Today Low Tide: 1.2 Feet 4:10 PM Today High Tide: 1.8 Feet 11:46 PM Today Low Tide: 0.2 Feet

Washington, DC Mostly Sunny ▲55 ▼39

Sun	et	
Today	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Monday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Tuesday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM

136/ MOOII	
3:23 AM	3:01 PM
4:15 AM	3:58 PM
5:02 AM	4:53 PM
5:46 AM	5:46 PM
6:27 AM	6:37 PM
	4:15 AM 5:02 AM 5:46 AM

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- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togeth-
- **TRÁVELOGUE** Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

ers, volunteer work, etc.

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740

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To check if contributions are 6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

	PAIN	TUR			Anı	RIVAL	
GUAM (GUM	)-ROTA (	ROP)		ROTA (ROP)	-GIIAM (	GIIM)	
C05062		2:40am	1. 5	C05064		5:45am	1. 5
			,, -				., -
SAIPAN (SP	N)-ROTA	(ROP)		ROTA (ROP)	-SAIPAN	(SPN)	
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5	C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GU <i>i</i>	-	-		GUAM (GUM	-		
C05064		5:45am	1, 5 via ROP	C05062		3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070		5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C05069		3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068		9:15am	Daily	C05071		7:50am	Daily
C05074		1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C05073		10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05076		4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05075		2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05078		7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05077		6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078		7:50pm	3, 6	C05077		6:30pm	3, 6
C05072 C05072		10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05079		9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-NAF	RITA (NR	T)		NARITA (NR	T)-SAIPA	M	
DL287		8:40am	Daily	DL298		3:00pm	Daily
DL285		9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL288		1:15am+1	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL286		12:20am+1	
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SAIPAN-OS <i>a</i>	KA (KIX	)		OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
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<b>SAIPAN-SEO</b> 07606		6:00am	1	SEOUL (ICN) 0Z603			Dailu
		6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z603 0Z120		2:20pm 2:20am+1	Daily Daily via KI
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0Z604		7:10pm	Daily via Kix	0Z605 0Z605		1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
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SAIPAN-BUS	SAN (PUS	5)		BUSAN (PUS	S)-SAIPA	N	
0Z608		7:05am	4, 7	0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5	DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GU <i>i</i>			0.7	GUANZHOU			1.5
3U8646	4:ZUam	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	1:4Upm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SH <i>a</i>	NGHAI (	PVG)		SHANGHAI (	PVG)-SA	IPAN	
3U8648		8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647		5:00am+1	3. 4. 6. 7
			, , , ,		,		
SAIPAN-MAI	NILA (MN	IL)		MANILA (MN			
0Z606/701		11:15am	1 via ICN	DL172/288		1:15am+1	Daily via NF
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	C0190/5077	10:55am		3, 6 via GUN
			via ICN	C0190/5079	10:55am		3, 6 via GUI
C05070/191		9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	0Z702/605		1:00am+1	7 via ICN
		10:25pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
DL287/173							via ICN
DL287/173 C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM				1346/
DL287/173 C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm 9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
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DL287/173 C05068/183 C05068/183 C05076/183	8:25am 8:25am 3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM 1, 4, 7	C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau
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DL287/173 C05068/183 C05068/183 C05076/183 C05076/183 C05076/193	8:25am 8:25am 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:20pm	9:40pm 9:25pm 9:40pm 11:00pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM 1, 4, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau Daily via ICN	C0192/5071 C0184/5071	10:25pm 11:10pm 11:40pm	7:50am+1 7:50am+1	via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM Daily via IC
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DL287/173 C05068/183 C05068/183 C05076/183 C05076/183 C05076/193 OZ604/703 C05072/PR111	8:25am 8:25am 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:20pm 9:55pm	9:40pm 9:25pm 9:40pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM 1, 4, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau Daily via ICN 1, 5, 7 via GUM	C0192/5071 C0184/5071 0Z704/603	10:25pm 11:10pm 11:40pm	7:50am+1 7:50am+1 2:20pm	via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM Daily via IC
DL287/173 C05068/183 C05068/183 C05076/183 C05076/183 C05076/193 OZ604/703 C05072/PR111	8:25am 8:25am 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:20pm 9:55pm	9:40pm 9:25pm 9:40pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM 1, 4, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau Daily via ICN 1, 5, 7	C0192/5071 C0184/5071 0Z704/603	10:25pm 11:10pm 11:40pm	7:50am+1 7:50am+1 2:20pm	via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM Daily via IC
DL287/173 C05068/183 C05068/183 C05076/183 C05076/183 C05076/193 OZ604/703 C05072/PR111	8:25am 8:25am 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:20pm 9:55pm	9:40pm 9:25pm 9:40pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM 1, 4, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau Daily via ICN 1, 5, 7 via GUM	C0192/5071 C0184/5071 0Z704/603 C0184/5071	10:25pm 11:10pm 11:40pm 11:59pm	7:50am+1 7:50am+1 2:20pm 7:50am+1	via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM Daily via IC
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DL287/173 C05068/183 C05068/183 C05076/183 C05076/183 C05076/193 OZ604/703 C05072/PR111 C05072/PR111 SAIPAN-HOI OZ606/721	8:25am 8:25am 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:20pm 9:55pm 10:05pm <b>NG KONG</b> 2:10am	9:40pm 9:25pm 9:40pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 7:50am+1 <b>(HKG)</b>	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM 1, 4, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau Daily via ICN 1, 5, 7 via GUM 3, 6 via GUM	C0192/5071  C0184/5071  0Z704/603  C0184/5071  HONG KONG	10:25pm 11:10pm 11:40pm 11:59pm (HKG)-\$	7:50am+1 7:50am+1 2:20pm 7:50am+1	via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM Daily via IC
DL287/173 C05068/183 C05068/183 C05076/183 C05076/183 C05076/193	8:25am 8:25am 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:20pm 9:55pm 10:05pm <b>NG KONG</b> 2:10am	9:40pm 9:25pm 9:40pm 11:00pm 7:50am+1 7:50am+1 (HKG) 12:00pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM 1, 4, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau Daily via ICN 1, 5, 7 via GUM 3, 6 via GUM	C0192/5071  C0184/5071  0Z704/603  C0184/5071  HONG KONG  0Z724/603	10:25pm 11:10pm 11:40pm 11:59pm ( <b>HKG)-</b> : 12:30am 1:00am	7:50am+1 7:50am+1 2:20pm 7:50am+1	via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM Daily via IC 2, 5 via GUI
DL287/173 C05068/183 C05068/183 C05076/183 C05076/183 C05076/193 OZ604/703 C05072/PR111 C05072/PR111 SAIPAN-HOI OZ606/721	8:25am 8:25am 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:20pm 9:55pm 10:05pm <b>NG KONG</b> 2:10am 2:40am	9:40pm 9:25pm 9:40pm 11:00pm 7:50am+1 7:50am+1 (HKG) 12:00pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM 1, 4, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau Daily via ICN 1, 5, 7 via GUM 3, 6 via GUM	C0192/5071  C0184/5071  0Z704/603  C0184/5071  HONG KONG  0Z724/603  0Z750/603	10:25pm 11:10pm 11:40pm 11:59pm (HKG)-\$ 12:30am 1:00am 1:15pm	7:50am+1 7:50am+1 2:20pm 7:50am+1 <b>SAIPAN</b> 2:20pm 2:20pm	via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM Daily via IC 2, 5 via GUI
DL287/i73 C05068/i83 C05068/i83 C05076/i83 C05076/i83 C05076/i93 OZ604/703 C05072/PR111 C05072/PR111 SAIPAN-HOI OZ606/721 OZ606/721	8:25am 8:25am 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:10pm 3:20pm 9:55pm 10:05pm <b>NG KONG</b> 2:10am 2:40am 3:10pm	9:40pm 9:25pm 9:40pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 7:50am+1 7:50am+1 (HKG) 12:00pm 12:00pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM 1, 4, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau Daily via ICN 1, 5, 7 via GUM 3, 6 via GUM	C0192/5071  C0184/5071  0Z704/603  C0184/5071  HONG KONG  0Z724/603  0Z750/603  0Z722/605	10:25pm 11:10pm 11:40pm 11:59pm (HKG)-\$ 12:30am 1:00am 1:15pm	7:50am+1 7:50am+1 2:20pm 7:50am+1 <b>SAIPAN</b> 2:20pm 2:20pm 1:00am+1	via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-Palau 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM Daily via IC 2, 5 via GUI Daily via IC 7 via ICN

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines: OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

### FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA Fr	equency
<b>Guam-Rota</b> FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115 FRE 117	13:00 14:30	13:10 14:40	Daily Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b> FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119 FRE 121	16:00 16:40	16:10 16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota	0.20	0.50	Dully	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily Daily
FRE 300 <b>Rota-Saipan</b>	17:00 17:50	17:30 18:20	Daily Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam Saipan-Rota	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104 FRE 106	7:50 8:20	8:00 8:30	Daily Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam	10.40	00.10	D "I	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114 FRE 116	12:00 13:30	12:10 13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily Daily
FRE 103 FRE 105	7:30 8:00	7:40 8:10	Daily Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SAIPAN TRIBUNE SATURDAY - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18-19, 2012 9

### SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### CATHOLIC 🗁

### Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

#### **Korean Center**

Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

#### Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)

Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass

Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm

Telephone no. 285-0273

Monday: 6pm

#### **Santa Soledad Mission Parish**

Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am. Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568

#### **Saint Jude Parish**

Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Telephone no. 288-0007

### San Antonio Parish

Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday

### San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro Wednesday:6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass

### San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm

### San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy

Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament

Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday

Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass

Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off

Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991

### **San Roque Parish**

Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's

Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912. Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

### **San Vicente Parish**

Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

#### **Santa Remedios**

Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday:

8:30am-12pm

#### **PROTESTANT**

### **Amen Church**

Sunday: 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation: 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email: osevo@daum.net

### **Born Again Christian**

(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm

Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

### Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27

#### **Chinese Christian Church of** Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday

### **Cornerstone Christian Church,**

Telephone no. 235-8540

Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/

Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950

Tel. No. (670) 235-8590

### Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org **Episcopal/Anglican Church on**

Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am

Place: Ga Call 285-6081 for directions

#### **Grace Christian Assembly,** Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA

Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)

Telephone no. 322-5680

### Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am

#### **Immanuel United Methodist** Church

Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday

### Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158 **Immanuel Methodist Church**

(Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)

Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am

### Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan

Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

### Korean Presbyterian Church,

Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm

#### Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-

Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

#### Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan

English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

### **Missions Connection Ministry**

**Every Sunday Celebrations:** 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

#### **Northern Marianas Christian** Church

Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd. Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 Contact Nick for

#### **Marianas Bible Fellowship** Center

Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

### **Pentecostal Missionary Church** of Christ (4th Watch)

Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566

### Saipan Christian Church

Sunday: 7:30am-10am

Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

### **Saipan Church of Christ**

Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

### **Saipan Community Church**

(Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

#### Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan

(Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

#### **First Baptist Church Koblerville**

Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2

#### **Thy Word Ministries Saipan** Faith Center

Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio. Beach Road in the

Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

#### **Upper Room International** Ministries

5:30am-6:30am Sunday Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan

### **Victory Chapel Christian**

Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

### **Victorious Christian Church**

(Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service

Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting

Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice

Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting

Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

# rshbac A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 18, 1999

### CPA defends action to halt sewer project

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is still hoping that the muchdelayed \$4.9 million sewer line project would push through despite the refusal of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to shoulder the additional \$175,262 imposed by the contractor. CUC executive director Timothy P. Villagomez maintains that the utilities firm is not responsible for any damages that may have resulted from the actions of the ports authority when it stopped the project on May 8, 1998. Villagomez claimed that under the signed Memorandum of Agreement, CUC shall provide funds and technical assistance for system compatibility. He added that the utilities firm has no intention of accommodating the additional cost.

### **PSS** is lauded for inclusive education

The on-going efforts of the Public School System towards the inclusion of students with disabilities recently received commendation from a high ranking official in Washington D.C. According to assistant coordinator for special education Gary J. Salas, Oleai Elementary School was praised during the Pac-RIM Conference held in Hawaii early this month which gathered educators and parents all over the Pacific. Assistant Director for Developmental Disabilities Sue Swanson was impressed with its program on inclusion and considered it as one model worth replicating in other territories.

### Feb. 18, 2000

### Soll sees need for more govt lawyers

Heeding a call from Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to put the Commonwealth's legal house in order, newly appointed acting Attorney General Herbert D. Soll vowed yesterday to look into the current assignment of government lawyers. Mr. Soll said his office is currently reviewing previous deployment of government lawyers to determine if the current number is enough to provide sufficient legal assistance to the CNMI. The newlyappointed chief government lawyer said the AGO is undermanned considering that a number of positions have been left vacant due to lack of funds. There are 10 positions unfilled at the AG's office, he said. Specifically, Mr. Soll said there is a need to hire one assistant attorney general each for labor and immigration and the Criminal Division.

### Delay in signing of mitigation bank pact hit

Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes has lamented the failure of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to sign the Saipan Upland Mitigation Bank Agreement which has resulted in serious delays and cancellations of development projects. In a letter to Robert Smith, Pacific Islands manager, Mr. Reyes expressed his disappointment over the indecision of the former's office to complete the agreement which would have paved the way for the construction of the Marpi landfill. The Legislature had put in place a measure that will create the mitigation bank several years ago and has even set aside lands for such purpose following the request of the U.S. Division of Fish and Wildlife.

### Feb. 18, 2002

### DPH introduces diabetes screening for all over 30

With 3,019 Northern Marianas Islanders diagnosed with diabetes as of 2001, the Department of Public Health is introducing widespread screening programs. Starting this year it will ask all adults who are at least 30 years of age to undergo glucose screening every year. Dr. Richard Brostrom, medical director for public health, said the planned policy on blood sugar examination would be given to these adults regardless of their reasons for visiting the Commonwealth Health Center. The public health department also aims to find at least 500 previously undiagnosed cases of diabetes in 2002 by offering free glucose tests every month in places like stores and schools.

### **DEO** belies new federal grant

The Division of Environmental Quality yesterday said it has not received new funding from the federal government, dismissing earlier reports that quoted Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio. Tenorio previously noted that there is an increased fund for the local environmental protection agency in the amount of more than \$1 million. DEQ public information officer Rebecca Snider said this report has caused some employees to speculate about salary increases. "It's misinformation," according to Snider, who said that some employees were asking if they are going to have their respective raises.

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call Saipan Tribune at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

**10** SATURDAY - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18-19, 2012 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Maharlika

# Macaraig plans meeting with new Guam consul

Macaraig

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

aipan Consul General Medardo Macaraig plans to meet with the new Consul General in Guam, Bayani Mangibin, who arrived in Guam Thursday morning.

Macaraig said in an interview yesterday that he will be meeting with his counterpart "as soon as he settles down."

"I intend to seek a meeting with the Guam Consul General here on Saipan, if possible," Macaraig told Saipan Tribune. "If not, then I will meet with him in Guam.'

Macaraig said he will inform Mangibin of issues affecting Filipinos in the CNMI, including the transition period owing to the federalization law as well as the impending closure of the Saipan

Guam Consulate.

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan announced on Feb. 9 that the Department of Foreign Affairs is consolidating its foreign service posts in the Pacific due to budgetary constraints.

While there is no exact date yet of its closure, Macaraig said the Saipan Con-

sulate General will still be around for the Philippine Independence Day celebration in June and the Ambassadors, Consuls General, Tourism Directors Tour of the Philippines in July.

The United Filipino Organization has launched a signature campaign to petition the continued operation of the Saipan Consulate. The petition, which

Consulate General and the eventual is being circulated on Saipan, Tinian, transfer of its responsibilities to the and Rota, gathered at least 1,322 signatures during UFO's Pusong Pinoy

> event last Sunday. UFO president Bong

> Malasarte disclosed yesterday that the petition is also being passed around by series number at the different hotels on island so that Filipinos working for these establishments can encourage others to sign it.

Although Macaraig has yet to see the actual petition, the Consul General expressed his appreciation to all Filipinos who have signed it, describing their support as "heartwarming."

"The petition gives a sense of fulfillment on our part. We feel that we're doing a good job because there are people out there who want our services retained. There won't be a petition if they think that we're not doing our job well," he explained.

Macaraig noted, however, that only DFA can say if the ongoing petition will affect its decision to shut down the consulate.

"I have to follow orders and my personal opinion does not matter," he added.

The Saipan Consulate General first opened its doors to the Filipino community in 1989 by then Consul Julius D. Torres. It presently has about 12 personnel but Consul Belinda Ante will end her tour of duty by next week, and two other staffers are expected to follow suit.

With the closure of the Saipan Consulate General, Macaraig said there is a possibility that a new foreign post will be opened in less fortunate countries in Asia or Africa.



Bayani Association's new president, Lolly Velasco, vows to improve the organization's membership figures and get it more involved in the community during her term.

Velasco and the rest of the new officers for 2012 - 2013 will be inducted in a ceremony at the Top Cuisine in Chalan Kanoa tonight.

Other officers to be installed are vice president-internal Maripaz Caamic, vice president-external Joel Dupra, secretary Angela Estioco, assistant secretary Anna Mercado, treasurer Anna de Guzman, assistant treasurer Erlinda Perez, auditor Domingo Dones, PROs Alma Famat and Willie Dimaano, and marshalls Rosa Arriola and Emilio Garra.

A native of Padre Garcia in Batangas, Velasco is also an active member of the

Saipan Marianas Lions Club and the United Filipino Organization. Velasco, who works for Dr. Anthony Stearns of Marianas Medical Center, was also voted as one of Ten Out-



Velasco

standing Migrant Workers in 2004.

Velasco said in an interview yesterday that she was surprised to be elected in January as the new president of Bayani Association.

The group, Velasco said, was formed by Filipinos who have taken livelihood courses offered by the Philippine Consulate General through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

Bayani Association has been active in the community through their cultural performances in different events. Members also volunteer their time and resources at Consulate-hosted health screenings, she added.

Velasco noted that their term will be challenging given the various problems that Bayani Association and the rest of the Filipino community are facing now, including the imminent closure of the Consulate and the dwindling number of Filipinos in the CNMI.

"That is why we are calling on all those who have graduated from the livelihood courses at the Consulate to become a member of Bayani Association and further strengthen the Filipino community in the Commonwealth," she told Saipan Tribune. "It is during these tough times that we must all work together and unite as one."

Velasco said they will reach out to their fellow Filipinos by working with the local media to promote their programs and activities.

Velasco, who has been on island for 26 years, thanked all Bayani Association members who have give her their trust to lead the group for the next 12

"I encourage all Bayani Association members to do their share because we officers cannot do our responsibilities without their help. Let us help one another so that our group can assist the Filipino community in general," she said.



Maria Angelica Malasarte, fourth from left, wears a big smile after being crowned the first Ms. Pusong Pinoy during the pageant proper at the Civic Center in Susupe last Feb. 12. The event was part of the Valentine celebration hosted by the United Filipino Organization.

### SSHS lass crowned 1st Ms. *Pusong Pinoy*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Maria Angelica Malasarte, the Saipan Southern High School lass crowned the first ever Ms. Pusong Pinoy 2012, donated a third of her winnings to the fundraising drive for earthquake victims in the Visayas and Northern Mindanao, the Philippines.

Malasarte, 15, donated \$100 of her \$300 cash prize after besting seven other young ladies in the beauty pageant, which was part of the Valentine's Day festivities hosted by the United Filipino Organization last Sunday.

Winning first runner up and Best in Formal Wear was Northern Marianas College student Holly Kane Medina; second runner up and Best in Sports Wear for her martial arts demonstration was 16-year-old Carla Camille Flores; and Best in Talent for her ballroom act and Ms. Friendship was 15-year-old Lou Angeline Gascon.

Malasarte, a sophomore student, said she decided to donate a percentage of her prize to the earthquake victims because it's "the least thing I can do" for people who are in need of help.

"Ever since I was young, my parents have always told me that I should give more than receive because the money that I have is only temporary. But if I give it to people who have greater need than I do, it would be something that would last forever," Malasarte told Saipan Tribune.

The eldest daughter of UFO president Bong Malasarte and wife Marilou, the younger Malasarte earned the nods of the four judges in the first beauty pageant she joined in her life. Sunday's panel of judges was composed of chair Ernie Molina, Fr. Celso Magbanua, Jr., Jihan S. Buniag, and lawyer and former Ms. CNMI-Universe Janet King. Jun Banadera served as the tabulator.

Malasarte, who was stunning in a red gown and stilettos, was asked what she learned from being a part of the competition. Being a shy person, she said she learned how to step out of her shell and sing, dance, and walk in front of a crowd. She also added that meeting all the beautiful contestants and making new friends was another special experience.

According to Malasarte, the thought of winning the pageant never really came to her mind because she believed that the other contestants pulled it off better than she did.

"When I was announced as the first ever winner of Ms. Pusong Pinoy 2012, my heart dropped," recounted Malasarte. "The feeling of winning a contest for the first time was one of the greatest feelings I ever felt and it was amazing."

The pageant was choreographed and directed by Joel Vallega. Pageant emcees were Ulysses Sabuco and Annamae Adaza while overall program coordinator was Minda Castro.

Malasarte said her Pusong Pinoy feat helped boost her self-confidence, encouraging her to join other beauty pageants in the future.

Malasarte, who dreams of becoming a fashion designer and model someday, gives credit to God, her family, and friends for believing in her potential to stand out in a contest of beauty and wits.

She also recognized the UFO for making Pusong Pinoy happen. "It was something that people of Saipan can look forward to especially during these days of crisis so I'd like to thank all the officers for making this event a successful one," she added.

Pusong Pinoy also featured a cooking contest dubbed Panlasang Pinoy. Winners were Shirley's Coffee Shop, first place with \$300; JLG Top Cuisine, second place with \$200; and Sandjuvy Restaurant, third place with \$100.

Judges for the cooking contest were chef William Retardo of Marianas Resort & Spa, Lei Hicaro of Docomo Pacific, Isagani Benoza, Hazel Mendoza, and Violet Ancheta of the Philippine Consulate Office, with contest chair Peter Crisostomo.

UFO also collected some \$263 worth of donations for the earthquake victims in the Philippines and at least 1,322 signatures in their petition to retain the services of the Consulate General on Saipan.

The Consulate, which also provided mobile consular services at the event, was able to assist 17 passport renewal applications, registration for 11 absentee voters, and one report of birth.

"It's better than a regular weekday at the Consulate office," said Consul General Medardo Macaraig. Welfare officer Julie Fabian, mean-

while, reported that they had a total of 27 membership applications with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration at the Valentine event.

"The event was a huge success, and of course, without the support from all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers, the event will not be possible. To the UFO family, kudos to you all. Your tiring preparations have paid off. To the CNMI community, thank you so much for the support," said UFO secretary Annamae Adaza.

Adaza added that they are excited about the feedbacks they got about the event because many are now looking forward to next year's celebration.

"We will do our very best to give the CNMI community an event that's worth watching and waiting for," she

Adaza extended her appreciation to all Pusong Pinoy donors: Eli Arago, Mario Mayuga, attorney Dyan Kristine Miranda, Julie Fabian, Barny's Pizza, Kristo Rai Parish, Mar Pacson, Dulili Ent. & Don Pedro, Philippine Consulate General, Coca-Cola, Make Over Salon, Trends Beauty Salon, Genoveva Hair Power, Nila's Salon, Viralicci, Yuichiro Printing, Armatech, Saipan Music & Dance, Perfectly Set/Boy Ching, and Nono Bostre.

# US approves transfer of 2nd warship to Philippines

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The U.S. Congress has approved the transfer of a second Coast Guard ship to the Philippines, an official said Friday as Washington shifts its military ties with the Southeast Asian nation that has been engaged in a territorial spat with China.

In the past, U.S. cooperation with the Philippines has focused mostly on counterterrorism, but it has recently expanded to building up the country's moribund navy.

Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro told reporters Friday that he will consider a Philippine request to have the warship turned over with as much military equipment as possible.

"I'm pleased that the congressional notification period for a second Coast Guard cutter expired this week, so that means Congress has now approved the transfer ... to the Philippines, which will further help Philippine security needs," he said after talks with Filipino defense officials in Manila.

The ship—the second such delivery since last May under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty—is just one of many



A reporter, right, introduces himself to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro prior to a roundtable discussion with a select group of journalists Friday at the financial district of Makati city, east of Manila, Philippines.

defense projects that the U.S. is discussing with the Philippines. That comes in addition to having American ships regularly visit and refuel in Philippine ports, rotating U.S. troops in the southern Philippines where al-Qaida-linked Muslim militants

are active and holding large-

China has said that it views with concern the increased U.S. military engagement with the Philippines and balked at what

it sees as Washington's interference in the South China Sea dispute. The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan all have conflicting territorial claims over potentially gas and oil rich islands with the Asian superpower.

The Philippines last year accused Chinese vessels of harassing its oil exploration ships and laying claim to areas within its territorial wa-

Shapiro reiterated the U.S. policy that it takes no position on the claims by any of the parties, that disputes should not be resolved through the use of force and that its defense cooperation with the Philippines is not directed against any one country.

But he also said that his government is committed to helping the Philippines in its security needs and "fully intends to meet its obligations under the Mutual Defense Treaty."

The increased focus on strengthening Philippine naval assets, which have lagged behind those of its neighbors and are no match to Chi-

na's superior military, comes a decade after American troops started training Filipino soldiers and sharing intelligence with them in a campaign to

rout out al-Oaida-linked militants. They are blamed for a series of bombing attacks and kidnapping sprees mostly in the country's southern island provinces.

"Traditionally our focus was on helping the Philippines address the internal security threat," Shapiro said. "Given the progress that the Philippine forces and police have made addressing the threat, we're now at a point when both our governments believe we can transition our support towards helping them in maritime security issues."

Still, he said he did not anticipate any immediate changes in redeploying about 600 U.S. Special Forces troops in the southern Philippines.

Shapiro also ruled out any intention to re-establish U.S. bases in the Philippines following a 1991 historic vote in the Philippine Senate to close them down, nearly a century after the United States claimed the islands from Spain.

U.S. military presence continues to be a sensitive issue in the former colony. Left-wing and nationalist groups are opposed to the 1998 Visiting Forces Agreement, which allows American troops to train here.

### Philippines protests attack on boxer in Argentina

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The Philippines filed a diplomatic protest to the Argentine government after a Filipino fighter was attacked in the ring by fans unhappy he had won a title bout.

John Riel Casimero and members of his team were kicked and assaulted when fans hurled chairs and stormed the ring following his 10th-round knockout of local fighter Luis Alberto Lazarte in the IBF junior flyweight championship in Mar Del Plata.

Philippine Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said Wednesday that his country's embassy filed a protest with Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is awaiting an explanation.

He said that after the riot, police escorted Casimero and his team to their hotel and provided protection for them. Lazarte later visited to personally

"It's OK for me to fight in Argentina, but I won't ever step in Mar Del Plata ever again," Casimero told reporters after he was given a hero's welcome in his home province in Cebu in the central Philippines.

The 22-year-old said it was hard for him to celebrate because he was mourning his brother, who died of heart disease a day before Casimero left for Argentina.

"I was hurting but I just kept it to myself," Casimero said.

"There's no turning back for me. I said to my myself that this is my chance to win the title for my countrymen and for my family and I have to make the most out of it."

Casimero was not seriously hurt and hid under the ring while the rioting fans were escorted out of the arena, said Aquil Tamano, commissioner of the Philippines' Games and Amusement Board.

He told ABS-CBN TV that he had also written to the Argentine boxing federation and IBF recommending that those responsible for the violence be held accountable.

Casimero's promoter Sammy Gello-ani said most of the violent fans were members of a truckers' union from Buenos Aires.

"I've been in boxing for a long time and the incident was just a normal thing. It's only that they could not accept defeat," said Gello-ani.

"Argentina is a beautiful place. We are still willing to fight there but it depends on who is the opponent and where it would be held."

Hernandez said that the Argentine ambassador to Manila was summoned to "express the great concern of the Philippine government about the riot and ask for explanation on the action taken by the Argentine government on the incident."

scale joint military exercises.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—

Philippine troops have arrested

an alleged Abu Sayyaf militant

suspected of involvement in nu-

merous kidnappings, including

those of American and European

tourists, police said Wednesday.

Abdulhan Ussih, subject of a

\$77,000 bounty, was captured

Tuesday after three months of

surveillance in southern Zam-

boanga city. He was a fish trader

and helped secure food and

Philippines arrest Abu Sayyaf suspect in kidnap police Senior Superintendent Generoso Bonifacio said.

> Ussih has denied any link to al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf and to the kidnappings, but he provided food and other items needed by Radulan Sahiron, an Abu Sayyaf commander on southern Jolo island who has been blamed for high-profile ransom kidnappings, Bonifacio said.

The militants seized European tourists from the Malaysian resort of Sipadan in 2000 and three Americans and 17 Filipinos from the Philippine resort of Dos Palmas in 2001. They beheaded one of the Americans and another died during a military rescue.

Meanwhile Wednesday, army troops clashed with about 15 Abu Sayyaf militants near Sumisip town on southern Basilan island where the gunmen apparently were planning to bomb a road project as part of an extortion bid, army Col. Ricardo Visaya said.

The militants fled, leaving be-

hind bomb parts, a motorcycle and binoculars. Troops were pursuing the militants, Visaya said, and no casualties in the fighting were immediately reported.

The Abu Sayyaf, now estimated to have less than 400 armed fighters, has been weakened by U.S.-backed Philippine military offensives but remains a key security concern. The U.S. says it is terrorist organization responsible for bombings, kidnappings and beheadings.

### other supplies for the militants, US expels Taiwanese official for abuse of

CHICAGO (AFP)—A Taiwanese official who pleaded guilty to charges of mistreating two Filipino housekeepers working in her Missouri home has been deported, the US Justice Department said Wednesday.

Liu Hsien-hsien, director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City, Missouri, "has been deported and has arrived in Taiwan," a Justice Department statement said.

Liu was arrested in November for allegedly treating the Filipinas like slaves. She soon reached a plea deal with prosecutors that allowed her to avoid spending up to five years in prison on a charge of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

Judge Greg Kays sentenced Liu to time served on a fraud charge and ordered her to pay \$80,044 in restitution to the housekeepers.

She was also ordered to pay a fine of \$11,040 to cover the full costs of her incarceration and deportation.

The case came to light after

one of the housekeepers sought help from a Filipino she met at the grocery store.

She told him that Liu had taken away her passport, told her she was not allowed to leave the house without permission, made her work 16 to 18 hour days at a quarter of the agreed wages, monitored her with video surveillance cameras and restricted when she could sleep.

Liu also allegedly told the woman that if she "acted out, she would be deported" because Liu was "friends with local law enforcement and known well in the community," charging papers said.

A previous housekeeper 'went into a state of depression and stopped eating" as a result of the physical and verbal abuse, prosecutors said, citing testimony by an unnamed witness.

The two housekeepers were certified as "victims of a severe form of human trafficking" and will receive government support for a visa that would allow them to legally remain and work in the United States, prosecutors said.

The Taipei mission, which has several offices around the United States, serves as a de facto embassy.

2 Filipinas matic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979 but has re-

> arms supplier to the island. Beijing considers Taiwan part of its territory awaiting reunifi-

> mained a key ally and a leading

Washington switched diplo- cation, by force if necessary.

### Filipino workers' remittances up 7.2 pct.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— facilities available have made abroad have sent home \$20.1 billion last year, up 7.2 percent from 2010.

Juan de Zuniga Jr. of the Philippine central bank said Wednesday the amount is around 9 percent of GDP and surpasses the banks' projected 7 percent rise.

He says the diversity of destinations and skills as well as a large network of money transfer

Officials says Filipinos working remittances resilient despite the political turmoil in parts of the Middle East and North Africa and a weaker global economy due to the eurozone's debt crisis.

> Nearly 10 percent of 94 million Filipinos work abroad, sending home money that boosts the economy.

The U.S., Canada, Saudi Arabia and U.K. are among major sources of remittances.



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# Samu't Sari



**PUSONG PINOY** 

United Filipino Organization officers and members pose for a group photo at their booth during Pusong Pinoy last Sunday.



Docomo Pacific staffers smile for the camera during a break at the Pusong Pinoy event on Feb. 12.

Erica Tuvera

song for the

audience. CLARISSA V. DAVID

belts out a



Consulate staffers assist Filipino workers availing of services during the first ever Pusong Pinoy at the Civic Center in Susupe.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Ms. Pusong Pinoy emcees Ulysses Sabuco and Annamae Adaza introduce the pageant candidates.



Young dancers entertain the crowd at Pusong Pinoy on Sunday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

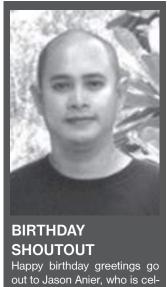
The esteemed board of judges of Ms. Pusong Pinoy beauty pageant. From right, Jihan Buniag, Fr. Celso Magbanua, Jr., former Ms. CNMI Universe Janet King, chair Ernie Molina, and official tabulator Jun Banadera.





Officers and members of the United Filipino organization join Docomo Pacific staffers for a souvenir photo at their booth.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



ebrating his special day today, Feb. 18! This shoutout comes

from your family, friends, and

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# **Business**

# GM posts its highest profit ever: \$7.6 billion

**DETROIT** (AP)—Just two years after it was rescued and reconstituted through bankruptcy and a government bailout, General Motors Co. cruised through 2011 to post the biggest profit in its history.

The 103-year-old company, leaner and smarter under new management, cut costs by taking advantage of its size around the globe. And its new products boosted sales so much that it has reclaimed the title of world's biggest automaker from Toyota.

GM may have a hard time breaking this record in 2012 because it is losing money in Europe and South America, and U.S. sales growth slowed in the last three months of 2011.

But the company's performance in North America and Asia still helped it earn \$7.6 billion for the year, beating the record of \$6.7 billion set during the truck boom in 1997.

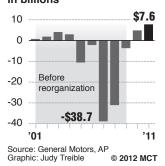
The profit won't stop the debate about spending \$49.5 billion in taxpayer dollars to save GM. But it did drive up the company's stock price, which could help the government get more of its money back.

The bailout of GM and Chrysler Group LLC, begun by George W. Bush and finished by Barack Obama, remains a major issue in this year's presidential campaign. It's so politically



General Motors posted the largest annual profit in its history. It reorganized in a government-sponsored bankruptcy in mid-2009.

#### Annual profit/loss, in billions



charged that even a Super Bowl ad celebrating Chrysler's rebirth caused arguments.

GM, which released its earnings Thursday, performed best in its home territory, posting a \$7.2 billion pretax profit in North America. The numbers were so good that 47,500 blue-collar workers will get \$7,000 profit-sharing checks, the maximum allowable under their new union contract. International Operations, which includes Asia, made \$1.9 billion before taxes, but that was

down from 2010.

GM's cost cuts, and its outlook for this year helped to push up the stock price by almost 9 percent to \$27.08. The company said it trimmed costs by \$500 million in the fourth quarter alone mainly by consolidating advertising agencies and engineering operations. A prediction that costs wouldn't rise this year wowed investors, especially since other automakers have forecast rising costs, said Itay Michaeli, an analyst for Citi Investment Research.

"That was a very pleasant surprise," he said.

GM also was optimistic about sales and revenue. It sees its global market share holding steady at 11.9 percent, and if global auto sales rise as expected this year, GM's slice of that would also increase.

That's especially promising, since GM managed to make money last year with industry-wide sales in the U.S. at a historically low 12.8 million. Sales this year could rise to 14 million.

### Stronger job market could boost economy further

WASHINGTON (AP)—The healthier job market that's lifted the economy in recent months shows no signs of slowing.

Applications for unemployment aid are near a fouryear low, raising expectations of further hiring gains. The news Thursday helped catapult the Dow Jones industrial average to its highest close since May 2008.

More jobs and tame inflation are giving consumers more buying power. Their higher spending could further boost growth and lower the unemployment rate for February for a sixth straight month.

Even the troubled housing market is benefiting. Builders expect improved sales in they're planning to break ground on more homes.

"The housing starts and unemployment claims numbers add to the belief that the economy is shifting gears," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisers. "The decline in the unemployment rate is real, and it should continue."

A series of positive economic reports Thursday reinforced that message:

- Weekly applications for unemployment benefits fell to a seasonally adjusted 348,000, the Labor Department said. That's the lowest level since March 2008. Unemployment applications have dropped 11 percent in four months.
- Builders broke ground in the near future. In response, January on a seasonally ad-

justed annual rate of 699,000 homes, the Commerce Department said. That nearly matches November's three-year high. Single-family home construction cooled off slightly after a big jump in December.

- Factory activity in the Philadelphia region grew in February at the fastest pace in five months, a survey by the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank found. That followed a report that showed a third straight month of factory growth in the New York region.
- Wholesale prices were largely unchanged in January, Commerce said. While gas prices are rising, they've been offset by falling costs for electricity, home heating oil and natural gas. Most economists see inflation as little threat.



In this Aug. 30, 2011 file photo a 2011 Chevrolet Cruze is featured at a car dealership in San Jose, Calif. General Motors Co. said Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012, it made more money in 2011 than any year in its history.

### Aussie airline goes under; 4K passengers stranded

SYDNEY (AP)—Thousands immediately," the airline said at her home on Australia's Gold of travelers from Hawaii to Thailand were stranded Friday after budget airline Air Australia ran out of money and went into voluntary administration, immediately grounding its five-jet fleet.

The Brisbane-based international and domestic airline, formerly known as Strategic Airlines, said all flights had been canceled and the airline would not be accepting new bookings because it could no longer pay its bills. Voluntary administration in Australia is similar to bankruptcy protection in the U.S., and can buy a company time to trade out of its financial problems.

"It currently appears that there are no funds available to meet operational expenses so flights will be suspended in a statement. Passengers who bought tickets with credit cards or had travel insurance may be given a refund, the airline said.

Around 4,000 passengers were overseas with Air Australia round-trip tickets, voluntary administrator Mark Korda said. Some of those affected were stranded in Honolulu and Phuket, Thailand.

"Overnight, the company was unable to refuel its planes in Phuket," Korda told Australia's Fairfax Radio. "The directors appointed us at 1:30 this morning and the boys have been working throughout the night to deal with what's a very difficult situation."

Stranded in Honolulu, Priya Sinh was forced to postpone her 18th birthday party on Saturday

Coast. She used her iPad to log onto Facebook to tell her 70 guests not to come because she wouldn't be back in time.

'We tried to laugh about it, but it wasn't funny," she said while her family called hotels looking for a room. Her mother managed to reserve the last four seats on a Jetstar flight to Sydnev leaving Saturday.

Australian airline Qantas and Jetstar, its budget subsidiary, were considering adding services to help stranded passengers get to their destinations, Qantas CEO Alan Joyce said. He said the airline will sell stranded passengers tickets for the same price they paid for their Air Australia tickets, giving them a chance to recover the full price from their travel agencies or credit card companies.

### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

### Oil continues its rise, threatening US growth

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The price of oil has surged 12 percent the past six weeks, pushed up by tensions with Iran, a cold snap in Europe and rising demand from developing nations. The surge is hitting home. Oil is raising the price of gasoline for American motorists. It's also making diesel and jet fuel costlier for shippers and travelers. That could crimp already modest growth in the economy. "It's an additional burden on already burdened households." says Judith Dwarkin, Chief Energy Economist at ITG Investment Research.

### Twitter unveils self-service advertising system

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Buying ads on Twitter is about to get easier for small businesses as the online messaging service adds a key piece to its moneymaking model. Twitter is unveiling a long-awaited automated system that will enable advertisers to manage their marketing campaigns and budgets without having to deal with sales representatives. Before Twitter opens the system to all comers later this year, the self-service approach announced Thursday will only be available to advertisers who accept or use American Express cards.

### **Apparently intoxicated pilot** kept off Omaha flight

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Frontier Airlines says it's investigating after an apparently intoxicated pilot was stopped at Omaha's airport before getting on a flight to Milwaukee. The flight was delayed for nearly two hours while someone else was brought in to fly the plane. Frontier Airlines spokeswoman Lindsey Carpenter said the airline was looking into allegations the pilot was impaired upon arriving for the Thursday flight. She said the airline wouldn't comment in further detail because it was a personnel matter. Flight 1894 was to have taken off at 6 a.m. carrying 29 passengers, three crew and two pilots. The plane eventually landed in Milwaukee around 9:30 a.m.

### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 12,904.08 +123.13 +0.96% 🕯

S&P 1,358.04 +14.81 +1.10%

NASDAQ 2,959.85 +44.02 +1.51%

### **EXCHANGE RATES**

S	Australian Dollar	0.928
terms	British Pound	0.6327
ıllar	Canadian Dollar	0.9959
in U.S. dollar	Chinese Yuan	6.2989
in C.	Euro	0.7616

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7546
Indian Rupee	49.1994
Indonesian Rupiah	9050.62
Japanese Yen	79.0645
Malaysian Ringgit	3.0475
New Zealand Dollar	1.1943

Philippine Peso	42.6925
Singapore Dollar	1.2607
South Korean Won	1125.5
Swiss Franc	0.9192
Taiwan Dollar	29.5575
Thailand Baht	30.82

# Nation

# Dad won't be buried in Wash. near sons he killed

**SEATTLE** (AP)—The man who killed his two sons in an explosive house fire in Washington state will not be buried in the same cemetery as the children, his family said Thursday.

Josh Powell's mother, Terri Powell, issued a written statement confirming that the family had given up a plot tentatively reserved at Woodbine Cemetery overlooking the boys' grave.

"We have tried so hard to be loving and considerate and respectful in making Josh's burial arrangements," she said. "We love our little Charlie and Braden and want their resting place to be a place of peace and comfort."

Powell, the husband of missing Utah woman Susan Powell, killed his 5- and 7-year-old sons and himself in a gas-fueled blaze Feb. 5 at a home he was renting in Graham.

More than 1,000 mourners attended the boys' funeral Saturday. They were later buried in a single casket at



Republican presidential candidate, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum speaks during a Economic Club of Detroit luncheon in Detroit, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012.

Woodbine, a municipal cemetery in Puyallup.

Terri Powell, wracked by grief, realized early this week that no one else was planning for what to do with Josh Pow-

ell's remains, said her son-inlaw, Kirk Graves. She visited a funeral home and a few cemeteries, he said, and she "cluelessly" picked a gravesite just up the hill from where the boys

are buried.

The decision prompted a public firestorm. The parents of Susan Powell threatened legal action to keep Josh Powell from being buried so close,

members: A 4-year-old was

forced to dump her packed lunch

and eat a state-dictated cafeteria

lunch of chicken nuggets. Now

school officials are blaming a

teacher's error in making sure the

The incident happened two

weeks ago at an elementary

school in Raeford, near Fort

Bragg. The girl's parents anony-

mously tipped off a Raleigh TV

station and a conservative blog-

ger after the girl brought home

Conservatives who see it as

yet another example of gov-

ernment overreach leaped on

the story, and it reached a pair

of North Carolina's U.S. repre-

her packed lunch uneaten.

child had a nutritious meal.

and the anti-crime organization Crime Stoppers of Tacoma-Pierce County purchased the plots on either side of the boys to ensure that he didn't wind up next to them. Crime Stoppers raised about \$20,000 in donations for the effort in less than a day.

"We felt very strongly that it wasn't appropriate to put him anywhere near the boys, and we did our best over the last 48 hours to convince her to do something different," Graves said. "It wasn't that hard to convince her—she just got started off on the wrong path."

Attorney Steve Downing, who represents Susan Powell's parents, Charles and Judy Cox, said they were immensely relieved.

Josh Powell was a suspect in Susan Powell's 2009 disappearance from their home in West Valley City, Utah. He had always claimed that he didn't know what happened to his wife. He took the boys—then 2

Critics see gov't meddling in school lunch swap

and 4—on a midnight camping trip in freezing weather in the Utah desert, he said, and when he returned home the next day authorities were at the house looking for her.

Weeks later, he moved the boys to his father's home in Puyallup. After Steve Powell's arrest on voyeurism and child pornography charges last fall, the boys were removed from the house and turned over to the Coxes.

A social worker brought them to Josh Powell's rental home for what was supposed to be a court-sanctioned supervised visit. Josh Powell let the boys inside, locked the social worker out, hit them with a hatchet and set fire to gasoline, authorities said.

A judge had recently ordered that Josh Powell undergo a psycho-sexual evaluation if he hoped to regain custody, and in a last-minute message to his sister he said he couldn't live without his boys.

## Santorum challenges Romney in Michigan speech

DETROIT (AP)—An aggressive Rick Santorum went after Mitt Romney on multiple fronts Thursday, challenging the Republican front-runner's economic policies, values and consistency in the city of his birth.

Santorum criticized his rival's record on federal bailouts in particular, although both men opposed the government's decision to rescue the auto industry.

"Gov. Romney supported the bailout of Wall Street and decided not to support the bailout of Detroit. My feeling was that the government should not be involved in bailouts period," Santorum said in an address to the Detroit Economic Club, just 23 miles from where Romney went to high school. "I think that's a much more consistent position."

Santorum spoke as Romney campaigned elsewhere in Michigan, ignoring Santorum and two other rivals for the GOP presidential nomination altogether while focusing his criticism on President Barack Obama.

Santorum, who has surged in state and national polls, is showing greater confidence in what should be safe territory for the longtime GOP front-runner. Romney not only grew up in Michigan, he is the son of a former governor. His family members also have been deeply involved in the state's politics for decades.

Despite those inherent advantages, Santorum vowed earlier in the week to "plant our flag" in Michigan, where the presidential primary is Feb. 28. He began to make good on that promise Thursday.

Known for staunch socially conservative views, Santorum outlined an economic policy with a heavy emphasis on



Republican presidential candidate, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum speaks during a Economic Club of Detroit luncheon in Detroit, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012.

family values. He supports additional tax breaks to encourage charitable donations to churches, for example.

"We certainly won't be able to have limited government, lower taxes, if the family continues to disintegrate," he said.

Santorum also linked Obama and Romney, suggesting neither wants to lead the entire country as he would.

"We have a president who says he supports occupiers who divide America between 99 and 1. We have another candidate in this race who suggested that he didn't care about the very poor," Santorum said of Romney. "How about a candidate who cares about 100 percent?"

And while he said he supports economic opportunity for all, Santorum said income inequality is good.

"Why? Because people rise to different levels of success based on what they contribute to society and to the marketplace and that's as it should be," he said.

Santorum also reiterated his

"Made in America" plan to eliminate a 35 percent corporate income tax on manufacturing to help rebuild the industry. He also wants to increase a tax credit for research and development, from 14 percent to 20 percent, to help create high-tech jobs.

Santorum spoke hours after he released tax returns showing his average income exceeded \$990,000 in recent years. He paid a considerably higher tax rate than Romney, whose income largely comes from interest on investments.

"Look, I do my own taxes. Heck, Romney paid half the tax rate I did, so obviously he doesn't do his own taxes," Santorum said. "Maybe I should hire an accountant in the future."

Santorum sought earlier this week to minimize expectations for winning Michigan, but he hopes to score a victory that could be a huge embarrassment for Romney. The former Massachusetts governor has struggled to persuade his party's most conservative segments to embrace him.

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—It was Ellmers and Democrat Larry Kissel. They wrote a letter aska tale of government meddling that outraged radio talk show ing U.S. Agriculture Secretary hosts and a pair of Congress Tom Vilsack to investigate.

> "The content of a school lunch provided to a child by their parents should be governed only by the child's parents, not another government bureaucrat," they wrote in the letter.

> "This is also kind of adding on to a lot of things that we're seeing coming out of the Obama Administration" that conservatives oppose, like requiring insurance coverage of contraceptives, Ellmers' press secretary Tom Doheny said. "We're joining this bipartisan call to get any and all information. It's one of those things that if it looks like a rat, and smells like a rat, odds are it could be."

> A Kissell spokesman did not respond to requests for comment. The cafeteria details are true,

but rather than an example of government "lunch bag police" overruling a family, it's an embarrassing lapse by a teacher, Hoke County Schools Assistant Superintendent Bob Barnes said Thursday.

The girl's teacher should have handed the child a carton of milk to round out the turkeyand-cheese sandwich and banana she brought from home. Instead, the teacher erred by telling the tyke to get a cafeteria lunch, Barnes said.

"We do not go over and stare down every child's lunch," Barnes said. "If you looked at the lunch the child had, I'd love to have that lunch today. However, there are occasions that kids bring lunches that aren't that complete, and that's why we try to supplement them with the things that they need to make it a complete lunch."

### sentatives, Republican Renee US officials tie terror group to Syrian bombings

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top U.S. intelligence officials pointrecent bombings in Syria, the deadliest attacks against the Syrian government in the 11month uprising.

Though the U.S. has called for Syrian President Bashar Assad to step down, his fall could lead to a power vacuum that al-Qaida's largest regional affiliate or other extremist groups could fill, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper told Congress. And that could allow such groups to help themselves to Syria's vast stockpiles of chemical weapons, he said.

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said the crisis in Syria has become

worrisome to the United States ed to al-Qaida in Iraq on Thurs- as a result of indications that alday as the likely culprit behind Qaida has infiltrated the government's opposition.

"It does raise concerns for us that al-Qaida is trying to assert a presence there," he said. "As to iust what their role is and how extensive their role is, I think that still remains to be seen."

In New York, meanwhile, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution backing an Arab League plan calling for Assad to step down and strongly condemning human rights violations it said his government had committed. The vote, though not legally binding, reflects widespread world opinion.

Likewise, in Vienna, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-

"that much more serious" and moon accused the Syrian government of committing "almost certain" crimes against humanity as activists reported fresh violence and the arrest of several prominent dissidents, including a U.S.-born blogger.

The comments by Panetta and Clapper in Washington marked a diplomatically dissonant moment of near-agreement between American officials and the Syrian leadership they have called on to step down, after the deaths of thousands of Syrians in the unrest that started during last year's Arab Spring.

Syrian President Assad has long blamed terrorists for starting the uprising, which has pitted his military against a rag-tag group of angry Syrians, divided by religion and neighborhood.

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# Asia

# Thai police: 2 more suspects in terror case

police said Friday they are searching for two more sus-

(AP)—Thai pects in a botched terror plot against Israeli diplomats that has been blamed on Iran.

may have been providing were detained after the plot training in the use of explo-

One of the two new suspects sives to three Iranian men who was discovered Tuesday in

Thongson. Winai said the man was seen on closed circuit camera footage as he left a house that had been used by the Iranians. The roof of the residence was blown off later the same day after a cache of explosives there detonated accidentally, and the same cameras captured each of the three Iranian men leaving the residence shortly afterward. Winai said the man was 52

commissioner, Lt. Gen. Winai

years old and of Middle Eastern descent, but that he did not know his nationality.

He said said police are also looking for an additional suspect who had rented the destroyed home with an Iranian woman who is now believed to be back in Tehran.

Israel, which has threat-

Bangkok, said the city's police ened military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, has accused Iran of being behind the botched plot in Thailand. Israel alleges it was part of a covert campaign of state terror that included a bombing Monday in New Delhi that tore through an Israeli diplomatic vehicle, wounding the driver and a diplomat's wife, and an attempt was foiled the same day in Georgia.

Iran blames the Jewish state for the recent killings of Iranian atomic scientists and has denied responsibility for all three bomb plots.

Thailand's national police chief said Thursday that the detained Iranians were plotting to attack Israeli diplomats, citing the similarity of so-called "sticky" bombs that can be attached magnetically that were used in New Delhi and Tbilisi.



Thai immigration officers escort detained Iranian Mohammad Kharzei, center, at the immigration headquarters in Bangkok on Thursday, Feb.

# hinese navy steps up anti-piracy training

(AP)—China's **BEIJING** fast-modernizing navy is stepping up training for antipiracy patrols off the coast of Somalia in a sign of its growing long-term commitment to overseas missions.

The first two-week course for 84 leading officers began this week at the Naval Command College in the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing, the website of the military newspaper Liberation Army Daily said Friday. The officers will run drills and discuss military theory and experiences from China's previous anti-piracy missions, it said.

China first launched the an-

ti-piracy patrols in December 2008, joining an international flotilla aiming to protect shipping in the Gulf of Aden. More than a dozen separate missions have followed, each consisting of two of the navy's most sophisticated missile frigates accompanied by a support ship.

The patrols marked a major break with the navy's traditional role of protecting China's coastal region, as well as Beijing's oft-stated opposition to foreign military interventions or overseas bases.

Along with boosting the navy's blue water capabilities in operations and resupply, the patrols appear to have whetted Beijing's appetite for even more ambitious missions.

In recent years, the navy has dispatched ships as far away as the Caribbean, and last year sent vessels to the Mediterranean to escort ships evacuating Chinese citizens from Libya.

Such moves have been facilitated by a wide-ranging naval upgrade fueled by double-digit annual increases in Chinese defense spending. Along with new destroyers, submarines and naval aircraft, Beijing last year began sea trials on its first aircraft carrier, a refurbished model

purchased from Ukraine more than a decade ago.

Cooperation with Ukraine and Russia have been at the heart of the military upgrade, and the Chinese chief of staff, Gen. Chen Bingde, and his deputy, Gen. Ma Xiaotian, met separately this week with delegations of top commanders from the two countries' militaries.

Chen was quoted by the Liberation Army Daily as telling the commander of Ukraine's navy, Rear Adm. Viktor Maksimov, that China hoped to "open up more areas of cooperation" with the Ukrainian armed forces.

### Diplomat: Maldives leader agrees to early election MALE, Maldives (AP)—The feasible by all concerned."

new president in the Maldives has softened his stance and agreed to hold early elections to break a political impasse after his predecessor resigned, an Indian diplomat said Thursday.

India's Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai told reporters that President Mohammed Waheed Hassan agreed during talks with him to work on holding an election "as early as considered

**MALDIVES** Thiladummati Miladummadulu Indian Fadiffolu ★ Male Ari Nilandu Kolumadulu Haddu Fua Mulaku Equator Addu♡

### At a glance

**Geography** Group of atolls in the Indian Ocean Area 115 sq. mi. (298 sq. km) (about twice the size of Washington, D.C. Population 395,000 (2011) **Religion** Sunni Muslim Economy GDP per person,

\$8,400; tourism is main

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom

industry Government Republic: gained independence from U.K. in 1965, then was ruled for 30 years by the autocratic

### **Recent events**

President Mohamed Nasheed, the Maldives' first democratically elected president (2008) was forced to step down Feb. 7, 2012, in what supporters have described as a coup by Gayoom's backers; protests have followed © 2012 MCT Source: CIA World Factbook; BBC

Waheed has said since taking office last week that the election should be held according to schedule in October 2013. But changing that stance means a moral victory for former President Mohamed Nasheed, who has been calling for early elections since he resigned last week.

Nasheed had faced weeks of public protests and was losing support from security forces when he stepped down. He has since claimed he was ousted in a coup at gunpoint. The claim sparked demonstrations that were put down by the police in a violent crackdown. In far-off atolls of this Indian Ocean archipelago, Nasheed's supporters burnt down police stations, court houses and government vehicles.

But Waheed has insisted the country cannot hold an election amid political acrimony and he wanted time to heal, a stand endorsed by the United States.

However, Mathai, who visited the Maldives, brokered a deal whereby a National Unity Government as proposed by Waheed would "work towards the conditions that will permit such elections to take place, including any constitutional amendments."

It is unclear if Nasheed has accepted Waheed's invitation to join the unity government. The government announced earlier Thursday that it is giving Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party four days to participate.

Waheed has been forming a Cabinet but has kept some ministerial posts open in case Nasheed's party accepts the invitation.

### **ASIAN BRIEFS**

### Afghan leader asks for Pakistani help in peace bid

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—The Afghan president appealed for Pakistan's help Thursday in negotiating a peace deal with Taliban militants ahead of a summit that will also include the leader of Iran. The meetings in Islamabad come at a time when momentum for peace talks with the Taliban seems to be growing, even as all parties to a stuttering process marked by intense mistrust say that success in ending the 10-year war in Afghanistan is far from certain. Afghan President Hamid Karzai told The Wall Street Journal in an interview published Thursday that talks among the U.S, the Afghan government and the Taliban had taken place in the past month. If true, it would mark a significant development because until now the Taliban had

said they would only negotiate with the Americans, contending that Karzai was a puppet leader and that their movement was the legitimate ruler in Afghanistan.

### **Coal mine accident kills 15** in China

**BEIJING** (AP)—China's state news agency says 15 miners were killed and three others hurt when the mine carriages they were in plunged into a tunnel. Xinhua said the accident happened early Thursday in Hunan province in central China when the miners were riding in mine carriages that were designed to transport coal only. It said the three hurt miners survived by jumping or being thrown from the carriages. China's coal mines are the most dangerous in the world because of lax safety practices, but the government has worked hard in recently

years to improve that and mine fatalities have fallen to about one-third from a high of nearly 7,000 in 2002.

### Italian ship fires on **Indian fishing boat, 2** dead

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Italian cargo ship fired at an Indian fishing boat that it mistook for a pirate vessel, killing two fishermen, India's navy said Thursday. The ship identified as the Enrica Lexie fired at the fishermen in waters off India's southern Kerala state on Wednesday, a navy statement said. The Indian coast guard and navy vessels escorted the Italian ship to the nearby port city of Kochi and were questioning the captain and crew.

The owner of the fishing vessel, who goes by the single name Freddy, said Thursday the firing was unprovoked. The

boat was fishing when the ship opened fire, killing the two fishermen instantly, he said.

### **Late NKorean leader** gets military birthday tribute

PYONGYANG, North Ko-

rea (AP)—Army trucks loaded with artillery rolled by the memorial palace for North Korea's late leaders as Kim Jong Un presided over a military birthday commemoration for his father Thursday. Kim Jong Il died of a heart attack in December, and North Koreans marked what would have been his 70th birthday by remembering him and showing support for his young son and successor. Across Pyongyang, they bowed before Kim Jong Il's portrait and laid single blossoms in his honor on the holiday now called "Day of the Shining Star."

# World

# UN sees possible crimes against humanity in Syria

**BEIRUT** (AP)—U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon accused the Syrian regime of committing "almost certain" crimes against humanity Thursday as activists reported fresh violence and the arrest of several prominent dissidents, including a U.S.-born blogger.

Speaking to reporters in Vienna, Ban demanded the Syrian regime stop using indiscriminate force against civilians caught up in fighting between government troops and President Bashar Assad's opponents.

"We see neighborhoods shelled indiscriminately," Ban told reporters in Vienna. "Hospitals used as torture centers. Children as young as ten years old jailed and abused. We see almost certain crimes against humanity.'

Syrian activists said government forces attacked Daraa on Thursday, carrying out arrests and shooting randomly in the city where the uprising against Assad erupted 11 months ago. They also reported intense clashes between army defectors and government troops in the central province of Hama.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Syrian troops "committed a new massacre" near the northwestern town of Jisr al-Shughour, killing 19 people—11 of them from the same family. The report was im-



In this photo provided by the United Nations, Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations Bashar Ja'afari can be seen on the monitor as he addresses the U. N. General Assembly, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012 at United Nations Headquarters.

possible to confirm.

The push into Daraa, located near the Jordanian border some 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of Damascus, followed sieges on the rebellious cities of Homs and Hama and appears to be part of an effort by the regime to extinguish major pockets of dissent.

Also Thursday, the Local Coordination Committees, an umbrella group of activists, re-

ported the arrest of a several activists, including Razan Ghazzawi, a U.S.-born blogger and press freedom campaigner.

Ghazzawi, who was born in Miami, Florida, was arrested early in the uprising and charged with spreading false information, but she was released after about two weeks.

The LCC said dozens of people were killed throughout the country Thursday.

The Observatory said security forces killed at least one civilian in Daraa, and that clashes between defectors and government troops there left at least three regime soldiers dead.

The deadliest fighting between troops and defectors took place in the village of Kfar Naboudeh in Hama province where government forces killed 10 defectors and four civilians, according to the Observatory. The group said the defectors attacked an army checkpoint near the Hama town of Soran, killing four soldiers.

Death tolls are all but impossible to confirm in Syria, which has banned independent reporting.

The Syrian revolt started in March with mostly peaceful protests against the Assad family dynasty, but the conflict has become far more violent and militarized in recent months as army defectors fight back against government forces.

The U.N. General Assembly scheduled a vote for Thursday on an Arab-sponsored resolution strongly condemning human rights violations by the Syrian regime and backing an Arab League plan aimed at ending the conflict.

Assembly spokeswoman Nihal Saad said Wednesday that the vote will take place Thursday afternoon. There are no vetoes in the 193-member world body and U.N. diplomats said the resolution, which already has 60 co-sponsors, is virtually certain to be approved.

While General Assembly resolutions are nonbinding, they do reflect world opinion on major issues and supporters are hoping for a high "yes" vote to deliver a strong message to Assad's regime.

### **Egypt Islamist: Cuts in US aid** imperil peace deal

CAIRO (AP)—The leader of Egypt's largest Islamist party has rejected U.S. threats to cut aid over a spat about nonprofit groups operating in the country, saying they are out of line and could imperil the peace deal with Israel.

The comments by Mohammed Morsi, the leader of the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, were carried by the state news agency Thursday and were posted on the party Facebook page.

Egypt claims the four U.S. groups are fomenting protests against the country's military rulers and sowing discord. Judges have referred 16 Americans, including six currently in Egypt and barred from traveling, and 27 others to criminal court. No date for the trial has been set yet.

The dispute has shaken relations between Washington and Cairo, and U.S. officials and legislators have threatened to cut aid to Egypt—\$1.3 billion in military assistance and \$250 million in economic assistance—if the issue is not resolved.

Morsi said the annual U.S. aid is part of its commitment to Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel—a bedrock of U.S. interests in the Middle East—and should not be at risk because of the dispute over the nonprofit groups.

"The U.S. is a principle part of this agreement and its guarantor. There is no room for talking about aid except in the framework of discussing the peace deal," Morsi said. "Brandishing threats to stop this aid is out of place. Otherwise, the peace deal would be reconsidered or it could flounder.'

Morsi's comments are in line with previous statements from Egyptian officials who have said the peace deal with Israel is not scared and can be amended. But Morsi's remarks are the first since the spat with Washington erupted in December.

After years of being targeted by a security crackdown under Hosni Mubarak, the Brotherhood was emerged as the dominant political force since Mubarak was ousted in a popular uprising a year ago. The group's political arm, the Freedom and Justice Party. which Morsi heads, is the pre-eminent force in Egypt's parliament, with nearly half of the seats.

A senior Cabinet minister, Faiza Aboul Naga, had accused the U.S. groups of using the foreign funds to foment pro-democracy protests against the country's military rulers, who took over after Hosni Mubarak was ousted in a popular uprising a year ago.

# Horror, mercy marked Honduras prison fire

COMAYAGUA, Honduras (AP)—Two of the bodies were found facing one another in a large sink, their remains completely blackened. Others were squished together in the prison bathroom where they had sought refuge from the flames, their bodies an indistinguishable mass.

If not for a split-second decision, Hector Daniel Martinez could have also died horrifically in the deadliest prison fire in at least a century.

When the flames started in the prison farm north of the capital of Tegucigalpa, Martinez had been asleep in a small metal bed, one of dozens stacked so high in a narrow barrack that they nearly touched the roof.

The fire raced above Martinez's head, and he could hear the screams of prisoners.

Martinez ran toward the barrack's only entrance. The door was locked. Most of the other 135 prisoners in the room ran toward the other end, where there was a bathroom with water and sinks.

It turned out to be a fatal choice for the others. Martinez survived after a nurse came with the keys and opened the door. He was only one of 28 inside



the barrack who did.

"One hundred and seven are dead," he said, his face conveying little emotion, as if a toll too difficult to believe.

In all, the fire at an overcrowded prison in Honduras killed 355 people, the country's attorney general's office said Thursday, making it the world's deadliest prison fire in a century. The local governor said an inmate called her moments before the blaze and screamed that he was going to set the prison on fire.

Comayagua Gov. Paola Castro said she called the Red Cross and fire brigade immediately but firefighters said they were kept outside for half an hour by guards who fired their guns in the air, thinking they had a riot or a breakout on their hands.

As the investigation continued into the night, officers guarded a group of inmates inside the prison grounds. Prisoners described a chaotic scene as the fire broke out and raced from one barrack to another, all filled with highly flammable curtains and mattresses.

When the fire was extinguished, all that remained of several barracks were the brick exteriors, painted with murals of Jesus Christ, saints and verses from the Book of Psalms. Inside, the metal cots, stacked four high and at least a dozen across, were charred and falling down.

### ıran says

**DUBAI**, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Facing international sanctions over its nuclear program, Iran is taking the position that it's the victim, not the aggressor. Iran is pointing to the cases of five slain scientists whose deaths it blames on Israel and its allies.

From Iran's view, it's been the target of clandestine hit squads for more than two years while the West has ignored Iran's claims that the Israeli Mossad spy agency is the mastermind.

"Iran's official line is that it's under siege, not the aggressor.

This shows up everywhere in Iran's policies and statements." said Mustafa Alani, an analyst at the Gulf Research Center based in Geneva.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke on national television Wednesday next to photos of five nuclear scientists and researchers killed since 2010. Nearby was a large portrait of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei holding the son of Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, a senior director of Iran's main uranium enrichment facility, who was killed last month after a magnetic bomb tore through his car in Tehran.

During earlier ceremonies to insert domestically made fuel rods at a Tehran research reactor, Ahmadinejad lifted to his knee the daughter of nuclear electronics expert Darioush Rezaeineiad, who was fatally shot last year by a pair of gunmen on motorcycles. Iran's nuclear chief, Fereidoun Abbasi, embraced the girl.

The ribbon-cutting was done by the teenage son of slain nuclear scientist Majid Shahriari, who was killed in a November 2010

blast that also wounded Abbasi.

'What Iran unveiled was mostly for domestic consumption," said Davood Hermidas Bavand, a prominent political commentator in Tehran. "Iran tries to tell its people that it has achieved its goals and that it has achieved proficiency in the nuclear fuel cycle technology" despite sanctions as well as attacks allegedly linked to Israel.

Israel has not directly commented on Iran's allegations, yet officials have offered tantalizing hints that plots are always possible among Iran's

many opponents.

For its part, Iran has strongly denied any links to a series of violent incidents this week targeting Israeli diplomats abroad. But Iran's sharp allegations about Israel's role in the scientist slavings-as well as to cyber attacks targeting nuclear equipment—serve to strengthen speculation of a payback campaign directed by Tehran.

On Thursday, Thailand's national police chief claimed that three Iranians planned to use a cache of explosives to target Israeli diplomats. The Iranians were detained Tuesday after accidentally setting off explosives in Bangkok.

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# Young Style

# Boy genius' book reveals life in college at age 8

By JOHN ROGERS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The one thing 14-year-old Moshe Kai Cavalin dislikes is being called a genius.

All he did, after all, was enroll in college at age 8 and earn his first of two Associate of Arts degrees from East Los Angeles Community College in 2009 at age 11, graduating with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Now, at 14, he's poised to graduate from UCLA this year. He's also just published an English edition of his first book, "We Can Do."

The 100-page guideline explains how other young people can accomplish what Cavalin did through such simple acts as keeping themselves focused and approaching everything with total commitment. He's hoping it will show people there's no genius involved, just hard work.

"That's always the question that bothers me," Cavalin, who turned 14 on Valentine's Day, says when the G-word is raised. "People need to know you don't really need to be a genius. You just have to work hard and you can accomplish anything.'

And maybe cut out some of the TV.

Although he's a big fan of Jackie Chan movies, Cavalin says he limits his television time to four hours a week.

Not that he lacks for recreational activities or feels that his parents pressured him into studying constantly. He writes in "We Can Do" of learning to scuba dive, and he loves soccer and martial arts. He used to participate in the latter sport when he was younger, winning trophies for his age group, until his UCLA studies and his writing made things a little too hectic.

Indeed one of the key messages of his book

is to stay focused and to not take on any endeavor half-heartedly.

"I was able to reach the stars, but others can reach the 'Milky Way," he tells readers.

It was a professor at his first institution of higher learning, East Los Angeles City College, who inspired him, Cavalin says. He didn't like the subject but managed to get an A in it anyway, by applying himself and seeing how enthusiastic his teacher, Richard Avila, was about the subject.

Avila, he says, inspired him to write a book explaining his methods for success so he could motivate others.

It took four years to finish, in part because Cavalin, whose mother is Chinese, decided to publish it in Chinese, and doing the translation himself was laborious.

Han Shian Culture Publishing of Taiwan put the book in print, and it did well in Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia, as well in several bookstores in Southern California's Asian communities. He then brought it out in English for the U.S. market.

Because of his heavy study load, Cavalin has had little opportunity to promote the book, other than a signing at UCLA, where he also lives in student housing with his parents and attends the school on a scholarship.

After earning his bachelor's degree, the math major plans to enroll in graduate school with hopes of eventually earning a doctorate.

After that, he's not so sure. He points out that he's still just barely a teenager.

"Who knows?" he says, chuckling at the thought of what lies ahead in adulthood. "That's a very distant future, and I'm pretty much planning for just the next few years. That's too far into the future for me to see."



RICHARD LARDNER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Who is monitoring the apps that kids use on their phones? The government complained Thursday that software companies producing games and other mobile applications aren't telling parents what personal information is being collected from kids and how companies are using it.

Apps could quietly be collecting a child's location, phone number, call logs and lists of friends, said a report by the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC blamed the companies that make the apps, and the stores that sell them, for failing to explain where that data might be recorded, for how long and who would have access to it.

"As gatekeepers of the app marketplace, the app stores should do more," the report said. "This recommendation applies not just to Apple and Google, but also to other companies that provide a marketplace for kids' mobile apps."

Apple declined to comment on the FTC report. Google, which created the

### Govt says parents need more info on apps for kids

Android software, said it has an "industry-leading permission system" that tells consumers what data an app can access and requires user approval before installation. "Additionally, we offer parental controls and best practices for developers to follow when designing apps that handle user data," Google said in a statement.

The FTC report signals a renewed interest by federal regulators who could pursue legal action against companies they accuse of violating the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. The law bans collecting and disclosing personal information for children under 13 without their parents' consent.

The FTC is especially aggressive protecting the privacy rights of children. Last year a mobile app developer paid \$50,000 last year to settle FTC charges that it violated the children's

That company, W3 Innovations, doing business as Broken Thumbs Apps, developed and distributed apps for the iPhone and iPods that allowed users to

play games and share information online, according to the FTC. Several of the apps, including Emily's Girl World and Emily's Dress Up, were directed at children and encouraged them to email their comments, the commission's complaint said. The FTC said the company collected and maintained thousands of email addresses from users of the apps.

The new FTC report does not identify any of the apps or software vendors that were part of its survey, which began last year. Using the word "kids," the government searched Apple's App Store and the Android Market and examined promotions for apps for word, math and number games and entertainment purposes. Most said they were for children. Prices ranged from free to about \$10. The FTC said it found almost no relevant disclosures about data collection practices or information sharing on Apple's service and only minimal information on just three of the Android promotion pages.

Tessa Donner of Evansville, Ind.,

bought her teenage daughter a smartphone because she wanted to be sure she could reach her, especially in an emergency. But she didn't know that the mobile apps her daughter is able to download to the phone could act as hand-held spies.

"To know now that it could be unsafe, that is concerning," she said.

Advocacy groups credited the FTC with drawing attention to a problem they said has grown as the market for mobile apps has exploded. In 2008, there were about 600 apps available to smartphone users, the FTC said, and now there are nearly one million that have been downloaded more than 28 billion times.

"There is almost no information on what data is being collected and how it is being shared," said David Jacobs of the Electronic Privacy Information

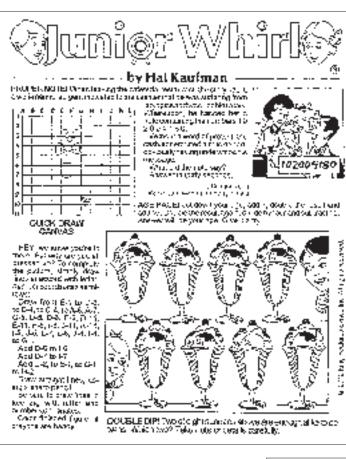
The FTC said most Android apps require children to allow the software to access at least some services on the phone. The government report said Ap-

ple relies on its own review process to prevent apps from targeting minors for data collection but added, "The details of this screening process are not clear."

Common Sense Media, a nonprofit group in San Francisco that studies children's use of technology, said privacy is eroding as the mobile app industry grows. More than half of U.S. kids have access to smartphones, tablets and other digital devices, said James Steyer, the group's chief executive. But the mobile app industry, which includes developers, stores and wireless carriers, are not providing the tools and information to monitor and protect a user's privacy, Steyer said.

"While industry lobbyists are concerned about the burden that basic disclosure will place on mom and pop app developers," Steyer said. "we're worried about the burden for real moms and pops."

The FTC urged app developers to describe clearly their data collection practices. Developers should also disclose whether the app connects with any social media services or includes advertisements, the government said.





#### by Samantha Weaver

- It was noted American wit and columnist Franklin P. Adams who made the following sage observation: "Elections are won by men and women chiefly because most people vote against somebody rather than for somebody." It's certainly something to keep in mind during this strife-ridden election season.
- Americans make more collect phone calls on Father's Day than on any other day of the year.
- It was a German company, Interstuhl Manufactur, that made the world's most expensive office chair. With a price tag of \$65,500, you shouldn't be surprised that the chair is plated in gold and comes with a matching ottoman.
- Have you ever wondered where we got the phrase "the dog days of summer"? According to tradition, the dog days start in July—and not just because it's usually pretty hot then. At one time, that was when Sirius, also known as the dog star, rose at sunrise. The Romans associated Sirius (called the dog star because it is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major, or "large dog") with hot weather, and at the beginning of the dog days they would sacrifice a dog in the hope of ameliorating the sultry weather.
- If you were to take the entire world's water supply and compress it into one single gallon, freshwater would make up just 4 ounces, and freshwater that is easily accessible would be just two drops.
- Considering the fact that it's home to much of the American film industry, it's probably not surprising that the sprawling city of Los Angeles has the world's third-largest GMP, or gross metropolitan product.

Thought for the Day: "An intellectual is a man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows."—Dwight D. Eisenhower

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цами в розвода деце ма.

#### GO FIGURE! by Lida Thisle The idea of 35 Higure is to arrive х at the figures given at the bot form and right-hand on limits of the diagram by following the arithmenia signs in the green 3 they are given (that is, from left to right and too to pattern). Use only the numbers below the diagram to examplete its black squares and use each of the Х nine numbers only once. 12 22 DIFFICULTY: \* \* \* \* Moderate | \* \* Difficult 1 2 3 4 5 5 6 8 9 \* \* \* GD FGLRE! QUARK FEMALES, NO. 10. NO.

# **MAGIC MAZE ANSWER GO FIGURE ANSWER**

### Is sick cat doomed to live alone?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We adopted a kitten, "Charly," a little more than a year ago, and she tested positive for feline leukemia. Our vet prescribed a medicine and she has been fine. She is an indoor cat. Now a new kitten has found its way into our yard, and we have fed it. She will not come to us, but she and our cat play through the window. We were told our cat should not be around any other cats, as she could give them the disease. If the new kitten comes to us and receives the shot that protects against feline leukemia, would it be possible for the two cats to cohabitate?—Amy V., via email

**DEAR AMY:** There is a possibility that both cats can eventually live together; however, if or when the stray kitten trusts you enough to come to you, you will need to keep her isolated from Charly for a little while longer.

First, the new kitten will need to undergo tests by the veterinarian for both feline leukemia (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), as well as for other illnesses and parasites like worms and fleas. She'll need to be spayed and receive her required vaccinations. Second, kittens are at higher



risk to contract FeLV, so she'll need to be housed separately from Charly until she reaches six months to a year in age. Both should receive twice yearly checkups and their immunizations kept up to date.

Charly and the new cat may not mesh indoors as well as they do at the window. If they fight at all, they'll need to be kept separated, so introduce them to each other very carefully. Also, the new cat mighht never adjust to the indoors. Be prepared for that, and at least get her spayed and vaccinated to protect her and the neighboring cat population.

Send your questions or tips to ask@ pawscorner.com.

by Donna Erickson

Shredded cheddar or Monterey jack

1/2 teaspoon dried oregano

ing if you prefer)

Salt to taste

cheese for garnish

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## Warm up with white chili

ind winter's warmth in a big bowl of easy-to-prepare white chicken chili. This irresistible recipe is a hearty meal, and I can assure you that it will warm up tummies after an afternoon spent outdoors. Prepare it in a big pot in less than an hour on your stove, or better yet, let it cook for a few hours in a slow cooker, so it's conveniently piping hot whenever you're ready to eat.

Let kids get involved in the prep work appropriate to their age and skills. If the older junior chefs in the family have never peeled and chopped fresh

garlic, show them how to mince it properly with a sharp knife. They also can take care of chopping the bell peppers and shredding the cheese for the garnish.

Younger kids can shred chunks of chicken or bring the broth, peppers, garlic and turkey with their hands and pour the beans in a colander to drain. Get out your measuring spoons and let them accurately measure the herbs and spic-

Here's what you'll need

2 (15 ounce) cans of great northern

3 cups of cooked, shredded chicken

or turkey (Save time and pick up ready-

to-eat rotisserie chicken at your local

1 1/2 cups sweet bell peppers (red,

3 teaspoons ground cumin (substi-

tute with 1 1/2 teaspoons taco season-

yellow and green) seeded and chopped

for 6 servings:

or pinto beans, drained

market)

3 1/2 cups chicken broth

2 cloves garlic, minced

1. Combine all ingredients except cheese a standard slow cooker. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours or on high for 4 to 5 hours.

family fun

2. If you don't have a slow cooker,

seasonings to a simmer in a saucepan on your stove. Cook until peppers are tender, about 5 minutes. Add beans and meat. Simmer 10-20 minutes.

3. Ladle in bowls and garnish with the cheese. For variation, add crushed tortilla chips, if you wish. Serve with slices of French bread.

Donna Erickson's award-winning se-

ries "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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# Good Housekeeping

# Prepping for spring

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA



It's still February, but spring plant-

ing season is just around the corner—even in traditionally colder areas of the country like the Northeast, which experienced a warm winter with little snow this year. That means homeowners should be going over their outdoor lawn-care and garden tools and equipment, making sure everything is ready to go when March roars in.

If you treated woodenhandled tools with linseed oil or other wood treatment and hung them up over the winter, take those tools down now and wipe away excess oil and check for water damage or other problems. Make sure that hinged parts move smoothly and are free of corrosion and dirt. Then, place the tools in an easily accessible place, ready to grab when you need them.

Lawnmowers and other equipment also need to be readied for the growing season, even though it may be awhile before they're needed. Take the lawnmower out of the garage or shed to a well-ventilated area. Check the blades to make sure they're free of rust and corrosion; if you detached the blades for storage, reattach now.

Turn the mower upright and, with the spark plug disconnected and the fuel tank empty, give the starter cord a few pulls. Next, connect the spark plug and fill the tank with the proper fuel-oil mixture (see the manufacturer's manual for details). Start the mower and allow it to run for a minute or two. Then, shut it down and store it upright in an easily accessible place, ready to use

ready to use.

Do the same with other outdoor equipment over the next couple of weekends. Not only will you know that your tools are ready when the weather is, but you'll be able to repair any damaged tools or equipment before



HOME TIP: Keep tools dry and accessible by install-

ing a pegboard with adjustable hooks on one wall of the garage, shed or workspace.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.



AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MC

Professional organizer Jamie Escola suggests assigning items in this Christmas basket to different containers.



AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

Professional organizer Jamie Escola suggests separating storage containers and lids.



AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MC

Professional organizer Jamie Escola suggests using a lazy

# Time to give the kitchen a clean sweep

By LISA ABRAHAM AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Is your post-holiday kitchen decorated with a trail of cookie crumbs and broken candy canes?

Is your refrigerator filled with the aging remains of New Year's Eve party food, moldy cheese and ham that's well into its second curing?

You aren't alone in your mess. With cooking, baking and entertaining, our kitchens tend to take a beating over the holidays.

But just like taking down the Christmas tree, making an annual ritual of organizing the kitchen is a good January resolution.

Tallmadge, Ohio, resident Marcia Cianchetti pointed to her kitchen table covered with the remains of the holidays—containers of candied cherries for fruitcakes she never baked, a bread machine her daughter dragged out of storage to take back with her to college, a food-filled basket her husband received as a Christmas gift, an empty tin from cookies a neighbor sent over, newspapers, dishes, presents and more.

Because her family eats in the dining room, the kitchen table and its nook off the back of the room have become a quasi-storage area and dumping ground for her family's stuff.

"Honestly, I just have too much stuff. Thirty-one years ago, I had half the cupboard space I have now and I had plenty of room. Now, I have twice the space and I still don't have room for everything," she said.

Professional organizer Jamie Escola, of Calm and Collected Organizing of Canton, Ohio, said Cianchetti's situation is typical. "It's human nature. If we have the space, we will fill it up," she said.

Escola gave a walk-through of Cianchetti's kitchen to offer tips on how to get a kitchen organized and keep it that way.

She likes to practice a technique known as SPACE, created by organizer Julie Morgenstern:

S—Sort through your stuff.

P—Purge anything that is expired, broken or unused.

A—Assign everything



AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

Professional organizer Jamie Escola, left, helps homeowner Marcia Cianchetti rid her home of clutter on January 12, 2012, in Tallmadge, Ohio.

C—Containerize your items. E—Equalize your space.

In Cianchetti's case, her kitchen offers ample storage—two large pantry cupboards (one for food and one for equipment) and a generous number of cupboards to hold dishes, glasses and other items. All of them are filled.

Escola said to begin by sorting all of it and purging.

For food in the pantry, refrigerator and freezer, get rid of expired packages, stale items or food that you know won't be eaten. Particularly at the holidays, when food gifts are common, we tend to end up with food that we may not actually use. If you know a bottle of exotic vinegar is not something you will open, don't be afraid to donate it to a food pantry or give it to a friend who will. Otherwise, it will probably get shoved to the back of the cupboard, where it will be forgotten until it expires and eventually is thrown out anyway.

Escola advised Cianchetti to edit out about 25 percent of what was in her pantries. For cookware, that means examining what she has and eliminating items she doesn't use. For items that are seldom used, like holiday platters, Escola recommended storing them in the basement or somewhere off site, where they aren't taking up space the whole year.

"Make sure the things in the kitchen are things you are using at least once or twice a week," she said.

But deciding what to keep and what to get rid of can be different.

Escola said saving items like baskets or tins isn't always a bad idea, because it does cost to replace them and most of us may need one from time to time. But you can't realistically save all of them. She suggested setting a small number to keep—no more than five—to be stored in the basement. "That way, you'll have one on hand if you want to make a gift basket for someone else," Escola said. But when basket No. 6 enters the house, it's time to get rid of one.

When it comes to storing off site in the basement or garage, Escola said again it is important to set a limit; otherwise you will fill up the basement. Assign three basement shelves for kitchen overflow. When that

space is filled, it's time to purge again, she said.

Sometimes, Escola said, you just have to give yourself permission to get rid of things and donating is always a good option.

"Ask yourself, 'Is it something I really need or that adds to the enjoyment of my kitchen?' If it does, you need to create a home for it. It's basically about weighing the positives and the negatives and about letting go. ... If it does not have a purposeful and obvious home, those things are going to become clutter?" Farely axid.

ter," Escola said. Assigning everything a home is the next step, and is crucial to getting and staying organized. If you always put coupons and receipts in the same place, then you'll always know where to look for them when you need them, Escola said. The space doesn't have to be a perfectly organized file. It can be just a box, basket or drawer. But as long as you use it for paper and only paper, you'll always know where to find items and you'll avoid paper clutter taking over your countertops.

The time to buy plastic bins,

containers and other organizers is after you have given everything a home, so that you will buy the right container for the job. "Resist the temptation to go out and purchase new containers, products and organizing tools, because then you have to organize around them. Take stock of what you have first," Escola said.

She is a big fan of baskets or plastic bins for holding like items—for example, bags of nuts and baking morsels. They keep supplies together, and can be pulled in and out, essentially creating drawers on shelves.

The final step, equalizing, is about maintaining the new order.

Eliminating the multiples is a great way to create space and will help to stop food waste, too.

Before going grocery shopping, Escola said, "Shop your pantry first." If you have three bags of rice, then plan some meals using rice to help pare it down. Knowing that you have three bags at home already also should stop you from bringing home a fourth.

Now that you have a plan, getting started can be the hardest part.

"I was thinking, if I just did an hour a day, then maybe I would get into it and maybe that would turn into two hours and I might actually get somewhere," Cianchetti said.

Escola recommends starting with all flat surfaces first—counters, islands and tabletops. Eliminating the visual clutter will immediately transform the kitchen's appearance, and it will give you space to work when you want to tackle what's inside the cupboards and drawers.

Countertops are a constant trouble spot, but they also can be an indication of what a kitchen is lacking. If your counter is cluttered with keys, mail, sunglasses and everyone's cellphone charger, it's probably because there isn't an assigned spot for those items.

Coggins said one of the best ways to deal with maintenance is to make it a part of your daily routine.

"At the end of the day, make sure things are cleared off kitchen counters," she said. **20** SATURDAY - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18-19, 2012 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Life & Style

# British spies stumped by Charlie Chaplin mystery

By JILL LAWLESS ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—They foiled plots and cracked Nazi codes, but Britain's spies were unable to solve the mystery of Charlie Chaplin's birth.

Although the entertainer is celebrated as one of London's most famous sons, newly declassified files reveal that Britain's MI5 domestic intelligence service found no records to back up Chaplin's claim that he was born in the city on April 16, 1889.

Uncertainty about Chaplin's origins linger to this day—a mystery Chaplin himself may have helped to nurture.

The previously secret file, released Friday by Britain's National Archives, shows that MI5 investigated the silent film star in the 1950s at the request of U.S. authorities, who had long suspected him of communist sympathies. MI5 historian Christopher Andrew said the FBI's red-hating chief, J. Edgar Hoover, privately denounced Chaplin as "one of Hollywood's parlor Bolsheviks."

To the spies' surprise, there was no record of the performer's birth.

"It would seem that Chaplin was either not born in this country or that his name at birth was other than those mentioned," MI5 concluded.

Chaplin's life is a Dickensian rags-to-riches story. Raised in London in a family of musichall entertainers, he moved to the United States in 1910 and became one of Hollywood's first megastars with his shabby, bowler-hatted everyman persona, the Little Tramp.

He was a box office sensation in movies such as "The Gold Rush," "City Lights" and "The Kid," but his left-wing friends and activities alarmed the FBI, which began tracking the actor in the early 1920s.

In 1952, as fears of Soviet infiltration raged in the U.S., American authorities asked MI5 to investigate Chaplin's political allegiances and personal background, including a long-standing rumor that Charlie Chaplin was an alias and the performer's true name was Israel Thornstein.

But British spies could find no trace of him in the birth records at London's Somerset House under Chaplin, Thornstein or Harley, his mother's stage name.

The spies also checked French records amid rumors that he might have been born in the town of Fontainebleau—but that, too, drew a blank.

Elsewhere in the file, agents speculate that Chaplin might have Russian roots. There was an allegation that he had once spoken of "going back to Russia."

"This might refer to paying another visit, or it might denote his origin as Russia," noted senior MI5 officer W.M.T. Magan, speculating that Chaplin might have come from a Jewish family fleeing pogroms at the end of



In this 1914 file photo, actor Charlie Chaplin is seen when he was a player in Fred Karno's vaudeville troupe, at an unknown location.

the 19th century.

Film historian Matthew Sweet said rumors about Chaplin's roots had been swirling well before the 1950s. The French claim stemmed from a fan magazine article from the 1910s that suggested Chaplin was born while his performer mother was on tour. The idea he was Jewish appears to have been an assumption by some

fans that came to be widely believed. Chaplin did little to correct the record.

"The borderline between fact and fiction about celebrities was much less clearly policed than it is today," Sweet said.

MI5 seemed content to let the mystery of Chaplin's birth remain. British agents were skeptical of American claims that the star was a communist threat, with John Marriott, the head of MI5's counter-subversion branch, calling the U.S. allegations "unreliable."

'It is curious that we can find no record of Chaplin's birth, but I scarcely think that this is of any security significance," he wrote in 1952.

The U.S. thought differently and Chaplin was refused re-entry to the United States in 1952. He settled in Switzerland and lived there until his death in 1977.

The dossier shows MI5 continued to track Chaplin for several years. It contains newspaper clippings about the actor, snatches of conversation from suspected radicals who knew him and letters sent from Russia to "Comrade Charly Chaplin" via the communist magazine Challenge.

But by 1958, MI5 had concluded Chaplin was not a threat.

"We have no substantial information of our own against Chaplin, and we are not satisfied that there are reliable grounds for regarding him as a security risk," the agency noted. "It may be that Chaplin is a Communist sympathizer but on the information before us he would appear to be no more than a 'progressive' or radical."

Nonetheless, a taint of impropriety lingered. Files released in 2002 showed that the British government blocked a knighthood for Chaplin for nearly 20 years because of American concerns about his politics and private life—he was married four

times, twice to 16-year-old girls. He eventually became Sir Charles Chaplin in March 1975, two years before his death at age 88.

Chaplin's origins remain cloudy, although the 1891 census records the then 2-year-old as living in south London with his mother and elder brother Sydney.

Evidence unearthed last year added another layer of mystery.

In a locked drawer of a bureau left behind after Chaplin's death, his family found a letter from a man in England named Jack Hill. It claimed Chaplin had been born "in a caravan (that) belonged to the Gypsy Queen, who was my auntie" in a Roma community near Birmingham in central England.

Chaplin had alluded to Roma roots in his autobiography, writing that "Grandma was half-Gypsy. This fact was the skeleton in our family cupboard."

Sweet said the letter was not proof of Chaplin's birthplace but evidence he cultivated the mystery of his origins.

"It is very widely accepted that he was born in London in 1889, but the piece of paper just isn't there," Sweet said.

"That letter is not proof that he was born in a Gypsy encampment. It is proof that he was terrifically attracted to the idea of that story, enough to keep the letter and lock it away and think of it as something important.

"The idea of the mystery of his own birth is something that he quite enjoyed, I think."

# 5 favorite Reese Witherspoon performances

By CHRISTY LEMIRE

LOS ANGELES (AP)— "This Means War" may not be Reese Witherspoon's finest hour—it's a glossy, noisy, love-triangle-slashspy-romp—but it's fun and it allows her once again to demonstrate her radiant likability. It also allows us the opportunity to look back at her career and ponder five of her best performances:

■ "Election" (1999): No matter what she does, no matter how many major roles she takes on or Oscars she wins over her career, Witherspoon will always be Tracy Flick to me. And I say that with great affection. The balance she finds here is so delicate and difficult. She's playing an essentially unlikable character: a prim, scheming know-it-all who will do whatever it takes to be voted president of her high school's student government. Adorable and annoying at once, she always seems to be trying too hard to please. But Witherspoon finds the loneliness and vulnerability in Tracy, and makes us ultimately sympathize with her.



This undated publicity photo provided by Twentieth Century Fox shows actors Joaquin Phoenix, left, and Reese Witherspoon who portray Johnny Cash and June Carter in "Walk The Line."

theory this is Joaquin Phoenix's movie, because he's the one playing Johnny Cash. Then along comes Witherspoon as Cash's

■ "Walk the Line" (2005): In lifelong love, June Carter, and she pretty much steals the movie right out from underneath him. This isn't a knock on Phoenix, who's extraordinary in capturing

the energy and essence of a towering American cultural figure. Witherspoon, though, just takes over the entire screen, and when she's gone, you want her to come

back. This was the first truly grown-up, womanly role she'd played at this point, and she got to be not just an engaging onstage performer (she also sang and played the harpsichord) but also a wife, mother, caretaker and no-nonsense family backbone. Oh, and the performance earned her the Academy Award for best actress.

■ "Legally Blonde" (2001): As a perky blonde sorority girl myself, I initially mistook this for a documentary. That's how convincing Witherspoon is as the ebullient Elle Woods, a pampered campus princess who finds her true voice in the unlikeliest of places: Harvard Law School. She is just irresistible here in the classic ditzy-blonde mode, a perfectly coifed, pinkclad force of nature, and her charm and conviction make the fish-out-of-water antics work. As the saying goes, you have to be pretty smart to play dumb. In that regard, Witherspoon proved she must be brilliant. (Everyone involved should have quit while they were ahead, though, and said no to "Legally Blonde 2: Red White & Blonde.")

■ "Freeway" (1996): Witherspoon did some of her most challenging work in her youth, and

this darkly funny, twisted take on the "Little Red Riding Hood" fairy tale is a prime example. She stars as Vanessa, a trashy teenager who ends up hitching a ride with a youth counselor named Bob (Kiefer Sutherland) in hopes of finding her grandmother. She opens up to him but eventually realizes he's a serial killer. Highspirited and foul-mouthed, she ultimately turns the tables on him, and the sight of Witherspoon pistol-whipping and berating Sutherland in her girlish Southern twang is a hoot.

■ "Pleasantville" (1998): In a large and esteemed ensemble cast that features Tobey Maguire, William H. Macy and Joan Allen, Witherspoon just shines. She uses her comic timing to great effect here as a sassy and subversive teenager who gets unwittingly sucked into the television set with her twin brother (Maguire) and finds herself in the idyllic, fictional 1950s town of Pleasantville. Gary Ross' highconcept directorial debut finds its characters transforming and literally becoming more colorful, more complicated, and a lot of that has to do with Witherspoon's character's inability to keep her mouth shut. Everyone's better for it—especially the audience.



Singer Nicki Minaj attends the MAC Viva Glam new product campaign launch event at Stage 37 on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012 in New York.

## Nicki Minaj to perform at NBA All-Star game

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA All-Star players will be getting quite the introduction this year: Nicki Minaj will sing a medley of her hits as the players are announced to the crowd.

Minaj is part of a celeb lineup for the All-Star game, to be held Feb. 26 in Orlando, Fla. Mary J. Blige will sing the U.S. national anthem and the group Neverest will sing the Canadian anthem. Pitbull, along with Ne-Yo and Nayer, will perform during the halftime show.

Will.i.am, Flo Rida and "The Voice" winner Javier Colon are expected to perform at All-Star pregame events on Feb. 25.

Common, Ne-Yo, Kevin Hart and other stars will participate in the Feb. 24 All-Star celebrity game. The coaches will feature All-Star players Dwight Howard and Kevin Durant.

### 'Colbert Report' off air; Comedy Central mum

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Comedy Central's "Colbert Report" is off the air and it's a mystery why.

An expected new episode of the show was replaced by a repeat on Wednes-



Colbert

day. Comedy Central said Thursday's live show will be off, too.

The network said it was airing

the repeats "due to unforeseen circumstances," but offered no other explanation. A person close to the show, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the matter, told The Associated Press that new episodes are expected to return soon.

A publicist for Colbert declined to comment.

Colbert's popular "fake commentary" program airs Monday through Thursday at 11:30 p.m. ET, following "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart.

# Aretha, Stevie to sing at Houston's funeral

**NEWARK**, **N.J.** (AP)—Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder will sing at the private funeral of Whitney Houston on Saturday in what promises to be a very musical service.

Publicist Kristen Foster also confirms that invitations went out to Houston's ex-husband, Bobby Brown; her co-star in "The Bodyguard," Kevin Costner; and Oprah Winfrey.

Houston's longtime musical mentor, Clive Davis, will speak at the funeral. The eulogy will be given by gospel singer and longtime family friend Marvin Winans.

Others who will be part of the

program include Donnie McClurkin, Tyler Perry, Kim Burrell, Rickey Minor, Alicia Keys, Dionne Warwick and Cece Winans, Fos-

The Queen of Soul was a close family friend and considered Houston her goddaughter; she said

used to call her "Aunt Ree." Organizers were getting the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark ready Thursday for the funeral. Drums and speakers, which were to be part of the mu-

in an email Thursday that Houston



Houston

sical service, were in the aisles.

Fans without invitations will be kept far away. Newark police say streets will be shut down for six square blocks around the church.

But on Thursday, there were several dozen fans outside, contributing to and taking pictures of the makeshift memorial to the superstar outside the church. Media were also outside of the venue.

Houston died Saturday in Beverly Hills, Calif., at the age of 48.

### LA radio hosts suspended for Houston comments

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles radio station has pulled two popular talk radio hosts off the air for comments they made about Whitney Houston.

KFI AM 640 suspended John Kobylt and Ken Chiampou, the hosts of the "John and Ken Show," for "making insensitive and inappropriate comments about the late Whitney Houston," it said in a statement Thursday.

"Management does not condone, support or tolerate statements of this kind," the station said.

According to audio posted online at UrbanInformer.com. the hosts called the late singer

a "crack ho" and said she was "cracked out for 20 years."

Kobylt said in statement that he and Chiampou "used language that was inappropriate" and they "sincerely apologize" to their listeners and to Houston's family.

"We made a mistake, and we accept the station's decision," said Kobylt.

The hosts, who broadcast their show weekday afternoons, will return to the airwayes Feb. 27.

Kobylt and Chiampou often rail against taxes and illegal immigration. The National Hispanic Media Coalition said last year that it targeted the show's advertisers to urge them to stop backing the program.

The group said the hosts promote hate speech and appealed to listeners to call and harass an advocate for immigrant rights about state legislation to give financial aid to illegal immigrant college students.

"A temporary suspension is not enough," Alex Nogales, president and CEO of NHMC, said in a statement. "How many times do John and Ken get to spew their hate, apologize and then do it again after taking off a long weekend? KFI must permanently remove John and Ken from the air. Los Angeles deserves better.'



President Barack Obama is greeted by, from left, California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and California Attorney General Kamala Harris upon his arrival at San Francisco International Airport in San Francisco, Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012.

### Obama jokes about a future tour with Al Green

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— President Barack Obama and the Rev. Al Green on tour?

Obama was joined by the soul singer at a Democratic fundraiser on Thursday, a month after the president launched into a brief, impromptu version of Green's "Let's Stay Together" at New York's Apollo Theater.

Obama thanked Green, prompting a member of the audience to shout, "Give us a verse!"

The president declined to sing this time, telling about 70 campaign donors that he "took a chance at the Apollo and I'm not going to take a chance again."

"After re-election I might go on tour with the good reverend be his opening act," Obama said.

But he warned, "I don't want to lose any further votes because of my singing voice."

Obama's crooning of "Let's Stay Together," starting with the vibrato "I" and finishing up with the line "so in love with you," quickly went viral on the Internet following the New York City fundraiser. His campaign released a ring tone of the president's turn as a soul singer.

Prior to the president's remarks on Thursday, Green was overheard singing his classic song at the fundraiser in San Francisco's Pacific Heights neighborhood.

### Mom still waiting to meet her ex-husband's fiancee

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced mother of two incredible children. It took a bit of work but after some time, my ex and I have come around to being civil, if not friendly with each other. He has been dating a woman for more than a year and now tells me they will be getting married in three months.



Abby, I haven't met her yet. I harbor no ill will toward her and understand

through my children that she's very nice and good to them. My ex keeps telling me they are not ready for introductions. I have no idea what that means, but I haven't pushed the issue because I want to keep things on friendly terms. My question is, at what point is it appropriate to introduce your ex to your children's soon-to-be stepparent?

READY IN HOUSTON

DEAR READY: Because you and your ex share custody of your children, the logical time for you to meet his fiancee would have been at the time of their engagement—if not before. I can't help wondering why your ex is stalling about making the introduction because, in the months and years to come, it will be important that you and your children's stepmother can function effectively together.

**DEAR ABBY**: I'm a coupon clipper. I save our household an average of \$30 to \$40 a week using them. Sometimes I have a great coupon we can't use, so I'll leave it at the store on top of the item it's for.

When I do, my husband accuses me of littering and merely creating trash for store employees to pick up. I think a stranger finding a valuable coupon for the item he or she wants is a kind way to "pay it forward." I'm selective about leaving them and only do it when the coupon offers significant savings.

What are your thoughts? AM I being a litterbug? CHICAGO CLIPPER

DEAR CLIPPER: Of course you're not being a litterbug. You're being generous, and I'm sure many—if not all—of the coupons you leave have been put to good

Since you asked for my thoughts, I'll share one: You have a critical husband who is faulting you rather than complimenting you on your generosity. Shame on him.

DEAR ABBY: My grandson and his bride were going through their gift envelopes and found some with nothing in them. They don't know if there was money inside and it fell out. If they thank a guest for a gift and there was none, it could seem sarcastic. If they don't thank the person and there was money inside and it got lost—THEN what? What

Also, there was a family (mother, son and daughter-inlaw) who attended the wedding. The mother put in a check that was larger than she really could afford, while the son and daughter-in-law left a card with nothing inside. We don't know what to do, because my grandson doesn't know if the check was intended to be from the three of them. Abby, what's the proper way to handle this?

EMPTY ENVELOPES IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR EMPTY ENVELOPES: Your grandson and his bride should write notes to those guests whose envelopes were empty saying, "We want to thank you for being part of our wedding day and helping to make it so memorable and meaningful. Your presence and the fact that you were with us made it extra special. With love ..."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# **Pastimes**

### Calvin and Hobbes

### By Bill Waterson

### **Garfield**®

#### **Bv Jim Davis**









By Bryan Basset







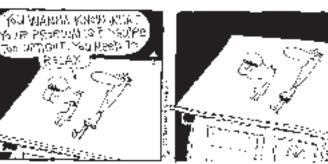
### Adam@home







### The Duplex





By Glenn McCoy

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Molly Ringwald, 44; Matt Dillon, 48; John Travolta, 58; Yoko Ono, 79.

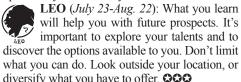
Happy Birthday: A passionate approach to life and everything you do will add to your success. Believe in what you can do and your achievements will surpass your past performance. Strive for perfection and hone in on what is in demand, not what is already abundant Uniqueness will separate you from the competition. Your numbers are 5, 11, 14, 24, 33, 35, 41.

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Strive to get ahead. Check out job posts or look at opportunities to earn extra cash on the side. Expand your skills or offer a service that will help subsidize your lifestyle. Don't let a power play someone makes disrupt your plans. 😂

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stick to your plans, regardless of what others do. A good idea you have will help reform a situation that has been bothering you. Short trips will help you establish your position and your game plan. Expand your knowledge. OOOOO

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Stick to the truth. Decipher what others really want before you agree to contribute. Don't sign up for something because you want to make an impression, do so because you are interested in what's being offered. Knowledge is key. •••

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Protect your home. Do what you can to make your surroundings reflect your idea of comfort. Don't let someone take over or redo what you have worked so hard to achieve. Speak up honestly about what you want.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mingle, get involved in something that interests you and share your thoughts with people who want to collaborate. Don't make personal changes for the wrong reason or that are costly or likely to disappoint you. Stick to intellectual growth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Explore new avenues. The less time spent with people who know you too well, the better. You have nothing to learn or gain by doing the same thing over and over again. It's time to branch out and try new things. •••

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be spot on, intuitively. Your ideas will be on target, and the ability to set a new standard or trend will help catapult you into the limelight. Doors will open if you take the initiative and market what you have to offer. **QQQQ** 

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Communication and travel will lead to problems. Stick close to home and spend time with the people you love. Home improvement projects will pay off, as long as you don't overspend in the process.

Sudoku is a number-placing

puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with

several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so

that each row, each column

and each 3x3 box contains the

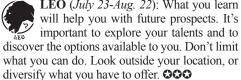
same number only once. The

difficulty level of the Conceptis

Sudoku increases from Monday

to Saturday.

**EUGENIA** 







purchases that will grow in value. Not everyone will agree with your logic, but trust in your gut feeling and you will come out on top. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You

can acquire greater stability if you pick up knowledge or a trade that will help you find a better paying job. You can alter the way you live by sharing expenses with someone working toward an improved lifestyle or similar goals. 🛇 🛇 🗘

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll

have insight into something that can make

you money. Look at investments or make

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): What you put out you will get back in return. Offer your services and ask for favors. Bartering will bring good results and help you establish a workable relationship with someone unique. Your intuition will guide you in a positive direction. OOOO

Birthday Baby: You are powerful, progressive and passionate. You are idiosyncratic.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, **astroadvice.com** for fun

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green 6 ð 1 9 3 4 6 6 1 5 4 8 Difficulty Local \*\*\*\*

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Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

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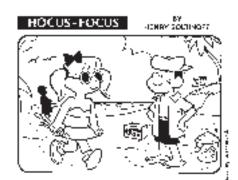
By DAMB CUELLET

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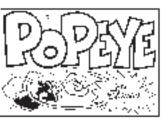




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HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the er of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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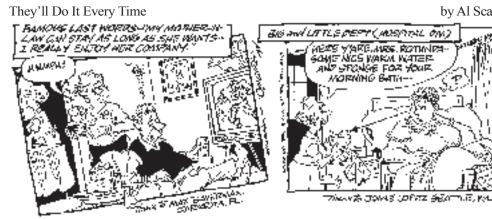


by Al Scaduto



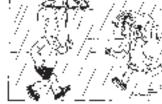


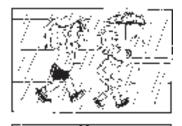


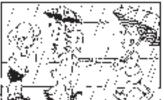


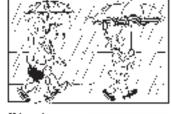






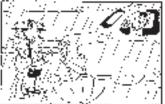


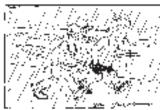












### Super Crossword

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1. ANCIENT WORLD: Where was the first Roman aqueduct, the Agua Appia, built?

MYTHOLOGY: What kind of creature was the Scylla? 3. THEATER: Thornton Wilder's play, "The Matchmaker," was later made into what famous

4. LANGUAGE: The present, past and past participle of draw, drew and drawn are examples of what kind of verb?

5. MUSIC: Which musical artist had a single hit with "Rebel Rebel"? 6. HISTORY: Where was American

7. "The Princess Bride"

@ 2012 King Features Synd., Inc. 6. New York City 10. Quakers 5. David Bowie Africa 3. "Hello, Dolly!" 8. Off the east coast of Mozambique, 2. A six-headed sea monster

outlaw Billy the Kid born? 7. MOVIES: What movie featured the fictional land of Florin? 8. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Comoros Islands? 9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What

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1. Воте STSWERS

kind of animal was said to have

raised the infants Romulus and Remus, twin founders of Rome? 10 RELIGION: How are members of The Religious Society of Friends more popularly known?

29.7.PB



The Spats







**24** SATURDAY - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18-19, 2012

#### SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# CLASSIFIED ADS

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# Boozer, Deng lead Bulls over Celtics, 89-80

CHICAGO (AP)— Carlos Boozer and Luol Deng each scored 23 points, and the Chicago Bulls escaped with an 89-80

victory over the Boston Celtics on Thursday night after blowing a 16-point lead.

It was hardly an easy night for the Bulls, but they continued to pile up the wins even though reigning MVP Derrick Rose missed his fourth straight game because of lower back pain.

They struggled early before going on a big run that gave them a 16-point lead early in the third quarter. Boston came roaring back and was up 61-60 early in the fourth after Chris Wilcox's alley-oop dunk, but a 12-point run broke a 69-69 tie and sent Chicago to its seventh win in eight games.

Taj Gibson's layup four minutes into the quarter started the decisive rally. Deng sandwiched a 3-pointer and layup around a free throw by Kyle Korver, and Boozer capped the rally with a pair of layups that made it 81-69, giving Chicago its leagueleading 25th win.

The Celtics lost for the fourth time in five games even though Kevin Garnett finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds after sitting out the previous night against Detroit with a hip flexor.

Rajon Rondo had 17 points and eight assists, but had his difficulties with Mike James guarding him. Paul Pierce scored 14, and Ray Allen finished with 12 points after a slow start, but the Celtics came up short.

The Bulls appeared to be in good shape leading 51-35 early in the third after Boozer capped a 22-2 run with a dunk, but after blowing nearly all of a 19point lead against Sacramento



Chicago Bulls power forward Carlos Boozer (5) shoots past Boston Celtics power forward Chris Wilcox during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012, in Chicago.

on Tuesday, they watched as the Celtics came storming back.

Allen found his stroke, hitting three 3-pointers as Boston pulled within 60-59 and they would have taken the lead into the fourth had Garnett not blown a dunk in the final minute.

No problem.

Rondo fed Wilcox for an alley-oop dunk in the opening seconds of the fourth quarter to give Boston a short-lived a 61-60 lead. The Bulls ultimately prevailed even though they looked at times like a team missing its MVP.

Rose took some free throws at the morning shootaround, but wasn't able to run. Coach Tom Thibodeau said he is "feeling a lot better" but remains day to day.

He's missed nine games this season because of back and toe problems after sitting out a total of six in his first three years, but the Bulls were breathing a little easier this week after a back specialist confirmed there was no structural damage.

"We're just going to wait and see how it goes," Thibodeau said.

### Clippers 74, **Trail Blazers 71**

In Portland, Oregon, Blake

# Lin added to All-Star weekend event

NEW YORK (AP)—Jeremy Lin will play in the Rising Stars Challenge after all.

The Knicks point guard was added Thursday to the roster of players for the Feb. 24 game, just before Shaquille O'Neal and Charles Barkley began drafting for their teams.

Lin's breakout came after the pool of 18 players was selected, and the NBA was pressured to add him after he scored 136 points in his first five starts, most by an NBA player since the merger with the ABA in 1976-77.

Beyond his strong play, there has been enormous interest in Lin because he was undrafted out of Harvard and is the first American-born NBA player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent. Other NBA players have praised his feats on Twitter, and even President

Griffin had 21 points and 14 rebounds to help Los Angeles rally from an 18-point secondhalf deficit and beat Portland.

Chris Paul, scoreless through three quarters, finished with 13 points as the Clippers outscored the Trail Blazers 22-11 during the fourth quarter. The win was Los Angeles' first in Portland for three seasons.

Both teams were held to season lows for points.

Nicolas Batum and Jamal Crawford each scored 19 points for Portland, which was playing its second straight game without All-Star forward LaMarcus Aldridge, who sprained an ankle Tuesday.

Barack Obama is a fan.

But Commissioner David Stern had told USA Today that Lin would not receive a special invite to play in the game involving rookies and secondyear players.

Barkley praised the addition, saying it was "really stupid the NBA denied him in the beginning.'

O'Neal took Lin with his third pick after starting with the Clippers' Blake Griffin. Barkley took Cleveland's Kyrie Irving at No. 2.

Miami's Norris Cole also was added to make 20 eligible players.

The game formerly matched rookies against second-year players, but the NBA changed the format this season so the teams would be mixed. O'Neal and Barkley served as general managers.

### Pacers 93, Nets 88

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger played through a sprained left ankle to score 32 points and help struggling Indiana snap a seasonworst five-game losing skid by beating struggling New Jersey.

Granger had missed the Pacers previous seven quarters and the team sorely missed his presence.

He made 10 of 20 shots, 8 of 9 from the free-throw line and grabbed five rebounds in a game the Pacers desperately needed to win.

Deron Williams scored 29 points to lead New Jersey, not quite enough to snap a skid that hit eight straight.

## Mickelson returns to the top of leaderboard

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Four days after his big win at Pebble Beach, Phil Mickelson keeps right on rolling.

Mickelson hit driver off the deck from just under 300 yards on the par-5 11th that led to a two-putt birdie, and he ended a gorgeous afternoon Thursday at Riviera by chipping in from 35 5-under 66 and a one-shot lead in the Northern Trust Open.

Dating to the back nine of his second round at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, Mickelson has made birdie or eagle on one-third of the holes he has played. And his streak of consecutive holes without a bogey finally ended at 49 on the par-3 16th.

No matter. He looked good with the putter and with his low, penetrating tee shots that he kept below the tree line on a windy day that prevented low scoring.

J.B. Holmes, in his fourth tournament since returning from brain surgery in September, played his final six holes without a par. His round ended with a 315-yard tee shot—a big drive in the cool air of Los Angeles in February—and an approach to 8 feet for birdie at No. 9, the second-toughest hole at Riviera.

That gave him a 4-under 67.

Hunter with Mahan, whose 35-foot birdie

four straight birdies.

They all played in the afternoon, when the wind began to die late in the day.

Jonathan Byrd, who faced the chilly, blustery conditions of the morning, had a 68. He was joined by Carl Pettersson.

The first round was suspended by darkness with 30 players yet to finish the round, a typical occurrence at this tournament with 144-man field and limited daylight.

Mickelson is coming off an 8-under 64 in the final round at Pebble Beach, where he rallied from a six-shot deficitand beat playing partner Tiger Woods by 11 shots—to change the outlook on his West Coast Swing. Riviera is his final tournament before the tour moves to Florida, and even on a differ-

ent golf course, Northern Trust not much has changed. He holed a

at No. 5 sent him on a string of 30-foot birdie putt on the long par-3 fourth hole, and then really got going on the back nine.

> After a tough pitch to 12 feet that led to birdie on the 10th. Mickelson had 297 yards to the hole on the 11th and decided to hit driver, a shot he had not tried in months.

> It came off perfectly and climbed onto the front edge of the green, making Mickelson the only player to have an eagle putt on the 587-yard hole, which played right into the wind. The

pin was all the way back, away from a large hump in the putting surface, which gave Mickelson the green light.

His eagle putt from 60 feet died next to the hole.

"I didn't think it was going to necessarily be reachable into that wind, but I was able to hit a low drive off the tee that scooted along the ground, and I felt like if I could hit one more of those with a driver I could get right up by the green," Mickelson said. "I felt like it was worth the risk to try to scoop one up."

The chip-in from behind the 18th was a bonus.

Mickelson made his lone bogey when his chip behind the 16th green ran 7 feet past the cup, and he missed the putt. On the 17th, his wedge rolled back to 7 feet for birdie, but the putt slid by on the left.

He faced another quick chip on the 18th, but it dropped in with perfect speed.

"It wasn't one I was really

trying to make," he said. "It was quick, it was downhill, and I had to play about four or five feet of break, so it's not one that you're trying to get aggressive with. I was trying to get good speed and try to let it feed with the break, and I got fortunate, obviously, that it went in."

Holmes was the first player to reach 5 under, and that's where his fun began—consecutive bogeys when he failed to get upand-down from just short of the green; a tap-in birdie at the par-3 sixth, with the pin below the bunker in the middle of the green; an 18-foot birdie on the seventh, a three-putt double bogey on the eighth and the birdie at the end.

He has struggled with a slight loss of power since brain surgery in September, and he even topped a shot in Phoenix a few weeks ago. But it's all starting to come together.

"I feel like each week my swing has definitely gotten a little bit better and improved a little bit," Holmes said. "My swing speed has slowly come back a little bit being out here and playing this much."

Byrd woke up Thursday morning to hear the wind whipping at his rental house on the Pacific bluffs. The last thing he wanted to do was play golf at Riviera, but it worked out well for him. He made five birdies in the toughest of conditions. The average score from the morning wave was 73.7.

"We're staying up on a bluff about five miles away," he said. "I got out of bed this morning and walked outside, and I was pretty anxious about playing this golf course today because it was howling on top of that bluff. And it whipped all day. My approach was just to keep it in play and have a pretty conservative game plan."

The afternoon players got a slight break, though the wind remained a factor.

"The last seven holes the wind started to die down progressively, and by the end, it couldn't be playing any nicer or any better." Mahan said. "So I was excited to come make some birdies late."

# Hall of Fame catcher Gary Carter dies at 57



NEW YORK (AP)—Gary Carter was nicknamed "Kid" for good

His smile, bubbly personality and eagerness to excel on a ballfield made him a joy to watch at the plate and behind it.

Even his Hall of Fame bronze plaque at Cooperstown shows him with a toothy grin—the Kid forever.

The star catcher, whose single for the New York Mets in the 1986 World Series touched off one of the most improbable rallies in baseball, died Thursday. He was 57.

Carter was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor last May, two weeks after finishing his second season as coach at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Mets spokesman Jay Horwitz said Carter died at a hospice in the West Palm Beach, Fla., area.

"I am deeply saddened to tell you all that my precious dad went to be with Jesus today at 4:10 p.m.," Carter's daughter Kimmy Bloemers wrote on the family website. "This is the most difficult thing I have ever had to write in my entire life but I wanted you all to know."

Carter was an 11-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove winner. His bottom-of-the-10th single in Game 6 of the 1986 Series helped the Mets mount a charge against the Boston Red Sox and eventually beat them.

With curly, blond locks flaring out from beneath his helmet, and a rigid, upright batting stance, Carter was immediately recognizable. And anyone who watched Carter recognized his zest.

"Nobody loved the game of baseball more than Gary Carter. Nobody enjoyed playing the game of baseball more than Gary Carter. He wore his heart on his sleeve every inning he played," Mets Hall of Fame pitcher Tom Seaver said.

After Carter's diagnosis, the Mets began playing a highlight reel of his accomplishments on the video board during games at Citi Field and posted this message: "Our thoughts are with you Gary. From your millions of fans and the New York Mets."

"His nickname 'The Kid' captured how Gary approached life," the Mets said Thursday in a statement. "He did everything with enthusiasm and with gusto on and off the field. His smile was infectious. ... He was a Hall of Famer in everything he did."

Carter played nearly two decades with the Mets, Montreal, San Francisco and the Los Angeles Dodgers. He led the Expos to their only playoff berth and was the first player enshrined in Cooperstown wearing an Expos cap.

"Gary was one of the happiest guys in the world every day," Mets teammate Mookie Wilson once said.

Carter was known as much for his effervescent personality as his talents. He earned his nickname as an eager teen in his first major league camp and the

label stuck for the rest of his career, and beyond.

"An exuberant on-field general with a signature smile who was known for clutch hitting and rock-solid defense over 19 seasons," reads his Hall plaque.

He was especially pumped during the biggest moment of his career. The powerful Mets were down to their last chance in the '86 Series when Carter stepped up with two outs. No one was on base, and New York was trailing Boston 5-3 in the bottom of the 10th inning in Game 6.

Carter said he had just one thought in mind: "I wasn't going to make the last out of the World Series."

True to his word, he delivered a clean single to left field off Red Sox reliever Calvin Schiraldi. Kevin Mitchell followed with a single, and when Ray Knight also singled, Carter scampered home from second base.

As Carter crossed the plate, he clapped his hands, pointed at Wilson on deck and clapped again. Moments later, Bill Buckner's error scored Knight for an amazing 6-5 win. Carter rushed from the dugout to join the celebration at home plate, catcher's gear already on.

Overshadowed by the rally was the fact that Carter had tied the game with a sacrifice fly in the eighth. Then in Game 7, Carter drove in the tying run in the sixth inning, and the Mets went on to win their most recent championship.

"What he added to the team was character. His approach to the game was contagious. It spread to the rest of us. He helped each of us understand what it took to win," former teammate Darryl Strawberry said.

Carter homered twice over the Green Monster at Fenway Park in Game 4 and totaled nine RBIs in that Series. Since then, only two players have gotten more in a World Series (Mike Napoli for Texas in 2011 and Sandy Alomar Jr. for Cleveland in 1997 each had 10).

Overall, Carter hit .262 with 324 home runs and 1,225 RBIs with the Expos, Mets, San Francisco and the Los Angeles Dodgers. He set the major league record for putouts by a catcher, a testament to his durability despite nine knee operations.

"Driven by a remarkable enthusiasm for the game, Gary Carter became one of the elite catchers of all-time," Commissioner Bud Selig said in a statement. "Like all baseball fans, I will always remember his leadership for the '86 Mets and his pivotal role in one of the greatest World Series ever played."

Carter twice was the MVP of the All-Star game. He won the award in 1981 by homering twice in baseball's first game after a players' strike that lasted two months. He remains the lone player to have a two-homer performance in an All-Star game and a World Series game.

Carter also set the NL record for games caught.

"I relied on Gary for everything when I was on the mound,



In this July 27, 2003, file photo, National Baseball Hall of Fame Inductees Gary Carter holds his plaque during induction ceremonies in Cooperstown, N.Y. Baseball Hall of Fame president Jeff Idelson said Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012, that Hall of Fame catcher Gary Carter has died. He was 57.

including location, what pitch to throw and when. Even when I didn't have my best stuff, he found a way to get me through the game. He was just a warrior on the field," former Mets ace Dwight Gooden said.

Carter, however, spent his first full season in the majors primarily as Montreal's right fielder. His first All-Star appearance came that year, in 1975, as a defensive replacement in left field for Pete Rose.

Carter was recognized, too, for his contributions off the field when he was honored with the Roberto Clemente Award.

"Gary Carter was everything you wanted in a sports hero: a great talent, a great competitor, a great family man, and a great friend," former Mets pitcher Ron Darling said.

Carter hit his first major league homer in September 1974 off future Hall of Famer Steve Carlton as a 20-year-old rookie—Carter homered 11 times against the ace lefty, his top victim.

Carter spent his first 11 years with the Expos and was part of a solid core that put them into the 1981 playoffs. They beat the defending champion Philadel-

phia Phillies in a new first round created after the strike split the season into two halves, but lost to the Dodgers in the NL championship series.

"Learning of Gary's passing feels as if I just lost a family member," former Expos pitcher Steve Rogers said. "Gary and I grew up together in the game, and during our time with the Expos we were as close as brothers, if not closer. Gary was a champion. He was a 'gamer' in every sense of the word—on the field and in life. He made everyone else around him better, and he made me a better pitcher."

A perennial fan favorite, Carter returned to Montreal in 1992 for one final season. His last swing was a memorable one—he hit an RBI double in the seventh inning at Olympic Stadium, left for a pinch-runner to a huge ovation from the home crowd and walked away after that 1-0 win over the Cubs.

Carter was elected to the Hall in 2003 on his sixth try. He had joked that he wanted his Cooperstown cap to be a half-and-halfer, split between the Expos and Mets. The Hall makes the ultimate call on the logo.

Carter pleased Canadian fans

by delivering part of his induction speech in French. Born and raised in California, he took a Berlitz course to help him learn the language after the Expos drafted him.

"It's nice to know that even though my body feels like an old man now, I will always be a kid at heart," Carter said on his

election.

The Expos traded him to the Mets after the 1984 season for Hubie Brooks, Mike Fitzgerald, Herm Winningham and Floyd Youmans. Carter turned out to be one of the last missing pieces on a New York team that already had the likes of Strawberry, Gooden and Keith Hernandez.

He made an immediate impression—it just took a little extra time to get it right in his Mets debut in 1985. In the season opener at Shea Stadium, Carter took strike three, had a passed ball that gave St. Louis a run and watched Cardinals pitcher Joaquin Andujar steal a base against him.

But in the bottom of the 10th inning, Carter hit a home run that won the game and drew a standing ovation plus chants of "Gary! Gary! Gary!"

"What a way to start," Carter

said with a grin afterward. "Hit by a pitch, strike out looking, a stolen base, a passed ball and then the home run."

"There's not enough words to describe what it feels like," he said. "I'll certainly remember this the rest of my life."

It wasn't the only time he bounced back from a rugged start. Slumping badly in the 1986 NL championship series, Carter hit a winning single in the bottom of the 12th to beat Houston in Game 5, putting the Mets within one win of the World Series.

"Nobody loved life in a bigger way than Gary," said former Mets manager Davey Johnson, now in the same job with the Washington Nationals. "Gary's brave battle has ended, but his from-the-gut laughter will be heard and his vitality and spirit will be felt forever. I loved him very much, and I know he is finally at peace."

A two-sport athlete as a boy, Carter won the 7-year-old national division of the NFL's first Punt, Pass & Kick skills competition in 1961. He was a pitcher and shortstop in Little League and switched to catching in high school after a scout suggested it was the fastest path to the big leagues, turning down a chance to play football at UCLA.

Carter stayed in baseball after his playing days ended. He became a broadcaster for the Florida Marlins, coached and managed for the Mets in the minors, managed two independent minor league teams and coached in college.

Carter made it to opening day for Palm Beach Atlantic University on Feb. 2, shaking hands with each player on the team. He watched about three innings and received a standing ovation from the crowd. The Mets had invited him to spring training, which opens Wednesday.

The only hint of negative publicity Carter drew came a few years ago when he appeared to be campaigning for the Mets' managing job though it was already filled.

Carter, however, always had a winning touch. At the ballpark or away, he greeted fans with a hearty handshake—many marveling at how his big right hand had swallowed up theirs.

At the Hall ceremonies in July, new inductee Bert Blyleven mentioned Carter. "Gary, keep battling the way that you always have," he said to the crowd.

Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt said Carter continued to inspire him in later years. In a 2006 column for The Associated Press, the former Phillies star recalled the pure elation that enveloped Carter when he was voted into Cooperstown.

"No player ever appreciated that call to the extent he did. The joy it brought him, his family, and friends, especially me, was so real and pleasantly genuine, I ate it up and still do," Schmidt wrote.

"He does not take it for granted. He will wear his emotion, from this election, on his sleeve the rest of his life," he wrote.

### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### **NBA STANDINGS**

### EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	20	10	.667	_
Boston	15	14	.517	4 1/2
New York	15	15	.500	5
Toronto	9	22	.290	11 1/2
New Jersey	8	23	.258	12 1/2

### Southeast Division

Miami	23	7	.767	_
Atlanta	19	11	.633	4
Orlando	19	11	.633	4
Washington	7	23	.233	16
Charlotte	3	26	.103	19 1/2

### Central Division

Chicago	25	7	.781	_
Indiana	18	12	.600	6
Milwaukee	12	17	.414	11 1/2
Cleveland	11	16	.407	11 1/2
Detroit	9	22	.290	15 1/2
Cleveland	11	16	.407	11 1/2

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

6 23

# Southwest Division San Antonio 21 9 .700 — Dallas 19 11 .633 2 Houston 17 13 .567 4

.207 14 1/2

### Northwest Division

New Orleans

Oklahoma City	22	7	.759	_
Denver	17	13	.567	5 1/2
Portland	16	15	.516	7
Utah	14	14	.500	7 1/2
Minnocoto	11	10	467	0 1 /0

#### Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	19	9	.679	_
L.A. Lakers	17	12	.586	2 1/2
Golden State	11	15	.423	7
Phoenix	12	18	.400	8
Sacramento	10	19	.345	9 1/2

#### Yesterday's Games

Indiana 93, New Jersey 88 Chicago 89, Boston 80 L.A. Clippers 74, Portland 71

### NORTHERN TRUST OPEN SCORES

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Results Thursday from the Northern Trust Open played at the 7,349-yard, par-71 course at Riviera Country Club.

### FIRST ROUND

IOSHUA

From Page 28

next spring.

tournament.

Phil Mickelson	33-33-66
J.B. Holmes	35-32-67
Hunter Mahan	31-36-67
Jonathan Byrd	32-36-68
Carl Pettersson	33-35-68
K.J. Choi	34-35-69
Brendan Steele	33-36-69
Brandt Jobe	33-36-69
Sergio Garcia	33-36-69
Matt Kuchar	34-35-69
Stewart Cink	34-35-69

season, he is now looking for-

ward to continuing his baseball

career on the collegiate level

In addition, Jones is also a tal-

ented volleyball and basketball

player. He led KHS Ayuyus to

a MISO volleyball title this sea-

son, and the defending cham-

pion Ayuyus (4-1) are right in

the mix as the MISO basketball

season is nearing its postseason

that showed interest in Jones

since 2010, including Indian Hills

Community College in Ottumwa,

Iowa; however, Colby by far

showed its persistence in coming

to terms with the young prospect.

1964 and has recently bannered

Colby was established in

There were a couple of schools

seven Major League Baseball players and one Frontier League pro from 1999-2009.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fourteenth year skipper Ryan Carter coaches the Colby Trojans (328W-324L).

Carter is the Trojans longest tenured coach and boasts the most wins for the school.

Assistant coaches Sean Lydon and Jerry Hildreth will also lead the team.

Lydon is the a former ace pitcher for the Trojans who is entering his second year as a coach, while Hildreth will instruct the group for the first time this 2012 season.

After finishing just above a 0.500 winning percentage back in 2010 (30-27), the Colby Trojans improved to a stout record of 42 wins and 20 losses last season.

The group boasted a 19-4 home record in 2011 and finished 23-10 in conference play.

### LADY

From Page 28

SSHS Lady Manta Rays, while MHS' developing junior varsity squad (MHS2) finished 0-0-6; four teams made up the field.

The single-elimination playoffs will start Friday next week at 2pm with MHS1 taking on

MHS2 followed at 3:15pm by SSHS taking on KHS.

Then the next day on Saturday, the third place consolation match kicks off at 9am followed by the championship main event at 10:30am.

The winner will be presented with the MISO girls soccer championship trophy.

## MHS1, SIS2 notch wins in girls volleyball

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Luke Donald

Justin Rose Bubba Watson

David Hearn

Tom Pernice Jr.

Cameron Tringale

Cameron Beckman

Tommy Gainey

Fred Couples

Kevin Stadler

Ricky Barnes

Mathew Goggin

**Dustin Johnson** 

John Mallinger

Keegan Bradley

Zach Johnson

Jason Dufner

Vaughn Taylor

Bill Haas

Jim Furyk

Billy Mayfair

Hunter Haas

Jimmy Walker

Y.E. Yang

Jarrod Lyle

Kyung-tae Kim

Spencer Levin

John Senden

Kevin Chappell

Gary Woodland

Aaron Baddeley

Adam Scott

Nick Watney

Scott Piercy

Retief Goosen

Johnson Wagne

Matt Bettencourt

Stuart Appleby

Jeff Overton

Erik Compton

Ryo Ishikawa

Jason Day

Ernie Els

Kevin Na

John Merrick

Camilo Villegas

Robert Allenby

Bryce Molder

Brian Davis

**Bud Cauley** 

Chad Collins

Geoff Ogilvy

Vijay Singh

Kyle Stanley

D.A. Points

Charles Howell III

**Greg Chalmers** 

Rickie Fowler Charlie Wi

Mark Wilson

Chris DiMarco

Graham DeLaet

Sunghoon Kang

Michael Thompson

Briny Baird

Marianas High School's varsity

Lady Dolphins and Saipan International School's junior Lady Geckos (SIS2) each bagged wins over separate opponents in Thursday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports organization girls volleyball matchups held at the MHS Gymnasium.

Third place MHS1 had little trouble besting its junior varsity counterparts (MHS2) in all three sets, 25-14, 25-4 and 15-5, while



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Saipan International School junior varsity player slaps a return over the net in Thursday's MISO girls volleyball matchup against Kagman High School held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

SIS2 came out with a sweep in a nail-biter against Kagman High School's Lady Ayuyus, 25-23, 25-23, and 15-12.

MHS1's stout record of 10 wins with two defeats strength-

ened its hold on the third spot and just a game behind co-leaders Grace Christian Academy and SIS' defending champion varsity crew (SIS1); MHS2 fell to a slate of three wins with nine losses.

GCA and SIS1 lead the sixteam field with identical records of 11 wins with just one loss apiece; they both received bye victories on Thursday as a result of two teams dropping out of the competition.

Meanwhile, fourth-ranked SIS2 evened its card to six wins with six faults after the hard-fought win, while KHS has accrued just four wins with eight losses thus far.

### **SETTSU**

From Page 28

scheduled for 3:30pm on Day 1 followed by a dozen matchups. Then on Day 2 starting at 4pm the consolation and championship matches will conclude the series immediately followed by the awards presentation.

The event will feature four girls and four boys teams made up of players of ages 18 and under.

The boys field is made up of Red Impulse, the SSFBT's 2011 defending champion Kagman High School Ayuyus; the SSFBT 2011 runner-up Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization all-star team comprised of players from the MHS Dolphins,

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Rays, and Tinian High School players; and a Coalition of Private School Sports Association all-star squad made up of players from Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, Saipan International School along with some other private school players.

The girls division includes 2011's SSFBT runners up Red Impulse, last year's SSFBT defending champion MHS Lady Dolphins, a MISO allstar team comprised of players from SSHS, KHS and the THS Lady Stallions; and a COPSA group made up of the SIS Lady Geckos and other private school players.

The Settsu Red Impulse basketball Club is based out of Osaka, Japan.

According to BANMI's press release, they are hosting the tournament in the name of goodwill and their continued development efforts.

This year, the Red Impulse group features an eight-man boys team and a nine-member girls squad. Back in the 2009 inaugural tournament, the Red Impulse boy's team fielded an Ironman six-player team and came up short in a thrilling heartbreaker to the MHS, who went on to finish in second place to the SSHS.

Then in 2010 the Red Impulse boys beefed up their roster to a dozen, but settled for a third

runner-up finish.

2011 appeared to be a rebuilding year for the Red Impulse boys who came over with a seven-man line-up that managed a third place result.

Hisataka Sakaguchi is the Red Impulse boys' lone returning player this time around.

The Red Impulse girls won the tournament in 2009 and have since then settled for a pair of runner up finishes.

The group is out for redemption this year against a veteran Lady Dolphins crew.

Red Impulse will field a number of new faces this year, but still have returning stars Reika Yamasaki and Mizuki Iwasaki at the helm.

### **NOT EVERY**

From Page 28

probably be there still," he said. "It sounds corny, but because of the way I was raised ... and all the mentors who invested so much, I felt an obligation to come back and help."

As if Ivy League grads lacked bragging rights, Lin's world-wide celebrity has provided them with yet another gift. More than a few can boast of having better nights playing against the Knicks' sudden sensation than Kobe Bryant or anyone else in the NBA has so far.

"I know this sounds crazy now, but there were three guys just on our team I would have taken over him any day of the week," said Cornell senior guard Chris Wroblewski. "I wasn't super impressed."

Wroblewski, who was named Ivy League rookie of the year in 2008-09 largely because of his defensive skills, was glued to Lin home-and-away during each of his first two seasons with the Big Red.

"The game I remember is my sophomore year at home, when both teams were pretty good and people started calling it the 'clash of the Ivy League titans," he said.

(Considering how little attention the rest of the basket-ball world normally affords Ivy League games that might be an overstatement. But back to the story.)

"He was the focal point in our scouting report, and we made it a priority to limit his touches. I think he had 16 points, but eight turnovers, too, and we beat them here by 36," Wroblewski recalled. "It's fair to say I'm not the fastest guy, so I had my concerns even then whether he could get around guys in the NBA.

"That shows you much I know."

Yet Wroblewski knows enough to have lined up a job in finance back near his home in suburban Chicago when he graduates this spring. Of the three Cornell teammates he figured would get their NBA shot ahead of Lin, Ryan Wittman, the unanimous Ivy League player of the year selection in 2009-10 and the son of Wizards coach Randy Wittman, is already working for Morgan Stanley in Minneapolis. The other two are still sticking it out in pro basketball's rough-and-tumble lower circuits. Louis Dale plays in Germany, and Jeff Foote, who bounced around with teams in Israel, Spain and Poland and was in camp briefly with the NBA's Portland Trailblazers last fall, is playing for the Springfield Armor in the D-League.

"The good thing about going to an Ivy League school is you've got a lot of options after getting your degree, and a lot of them more lucrative than basketball, especially where I'm at," Foote said. "You get a good starting salary with say Goldman Sachs or Morgan Stanley, and maybe 10 or 20 years down the road you wind up even better off. The bad thing is that people assumed you played in the Ivy League because you weren't good enough to get an athletic scholarship anywhere else."

Foote takes some pride in knowing that in corporate offices across the country, guys like him are enjoying rare moments of celebrity again. Suddenly, many of the financial planners, insurance agents and accountants who work alongside them can't hear enough about the night one of them stared down Jeremy Lin.

"Honestly? I don't remember much about it," Foote said. "We beat them pretty handily. I

knew he'd get an opportunity, but I expected the only way he'd catch on was maybe as a backup point guard. I hope his success makes a lot of people look at the league differently."

Duncan thinks so, too, but he's hoping there's a bigger lesson to be learned from Linsanity.

"The best thing about Jeremy's story is it shows you don't always have to have pedigree or be a McDonald's All-American to get where you want to go. If you work hard and you've got humility, and what matters to you is making the team better, you can find a way to contribute.

"Look," Duncan said, "Jeremy is a very special kid, but it isn't about the numbers he puts up. The Knicks were—how should I put it—a dysfunctional group, and he made them a team. He's been held to low numbers plenty of times, but the only thing he ever cared about were 'Ws.' Find guys like that," he said finally, "and success isn't usually far behind."



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Joshua Jones is college-bond

NMI baseball stand-Josh-Jones signed an official Junior College Athletic Association letter of intent to attend Colby Community College located in Colby, Kansas last week.



At the same time he also signed a scholarship agreement form to be honored this upcoming 2012 fall and 2013 spring semesters.

"I am looking forward to college and am excited to get my collegiate baseball career going. I plan to take full advantage of this great opportunity and represent the CNMI well," assured Jones in an interview after last week's MISO basketball game against Grace Christian Academy.



Jones should be ready and suited up to play in the 2013 spring season.

He is still weighing his options with regards to his major field of study.

The Kagman High School senior has displayed an impressive body of work back in his Little League days and other various sports.

Jones led the CNMI national team to a gold medal in the 2010 Micronesian Games held in Palau. He was also recently selected as the Northern Marianas

Amateur Sports Association's male athlete of the year after leading the CNMI national team to another gold medal showing in the 2011 Pacific Games held over in New Caledonia this past

Jones stepped to the mound in the third inning of the Pacific Games finals and contained rival Guam, 8-4, on the big stage. In the tournament, he tallied 42 strikeouts in 30 2/3 innings pitched for a minuscule earned run average of 0.111.

Other highlights include being recognized by Baseball Confederation of Oceania Talent Officer Ray Brown for already having a "Major League" curve ball back in late 2010.

To no surprise Jones' individual Little League statistics were remarkable, maybe the best ever as a pitcher. In fact his pitching numbers are so good that people often undermine his talent at the plate. He has also built quite a reputation of being a soft-spoken leader by both his peers and coaches, proving on multiple occasions that pressure does not faze him on the mound.

Although Jones put his Little League cleats on the shelf last

See **JOSHUA** on Page 27



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Settsu Red Impulse's Haruna Oshima, right, battles COPSSA All-Stars' Carey Demapan during last year's Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament semifinals held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

### Settsu-Saipan Friendship tourney set next month

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will welcome the Settsu Red Impulse basketball team in its fourth consecutive appearance during the 2012 Settsu-Saipan

ment scheduled from March 27 to 28 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The opening ceremony is See SETTSU on Page 27

By JIM LITKE AP Sports Columnist

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke(at)ap.org and follow him at Twitter.com/JimLitke.



### Not every Ivy Leaguer becomes an NBA star

Lin"and "Harvard" lately you might think every Duncan doesn't Ivy Leaguer who chases the dream winds up in the NBA.

Not so. Nearly all of them must face reality sooner or later and learn to make do in less glamorous occupations, such as Wall Street CEO, legal titan or even secretary of education. But none of them minds basking in Lin's reflected glory.

"I followed Jeremy since he was a kid, and I always knew he'd amount to something," chuckled Arne Duncan, a former Harvard basketball captain who really is the U.S. Secretary of Education. "It's been amazing to watch. It shows that if

he names "Jeremy you keep working and people pay attention, there are plenty pop up in the same of diamonds out there just waitsentence so often ing to be discovered."

> himself as one of those diamonds, though he played in the U.S. Basketball League after graduation, then had a cup of coffee at the Boston Celtics' training camp and played pro basketball in Australia for four years before launching his public-service career. Duncan might have stayed on the other side of the world, too, if the pull of his hometown weren't so strong.

> "I was getting paid to do something I loved. I was comfortable, and being honest, if I'd stayed for another year, I'd

See NOT EVERY on Page 27





A Marianas High School varsity player dribbles the ball in this file photo taken from their first MISO girls soccer matchup against Kagman High School held at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

# y Dolphins completes undefeated soccer regular season

walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com REPORTER



An improbable deflection by Kagman

High School's backfield awarded the Marianas High School varsity Lady Dolphins (MHS1) a 1-0 victory as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's girls soccer regular season came to a close Thursday at the

The win capped off an undefeated season for last year's reigning champions. Aside from five wins, the team also had a draw this season.

KHS did a good job holding off MHS1's aggressive front for the majority of the contest, but the Lady Dolphins' relentless attacks eventually led to a goal caused by a deflection of a KHS defender in front of the net.

MHS1 was already locked

### **RELATED NEWS**

MHS1, SIS2 notch wins in girls volleyball **PAGE 27** 

into first place in the standings coming into the match, and even with a win, KHS would have ended up in third place because of the tiebreaker rule from a loss to second ranked Saipan Southern High School (3-1-2), however KHS almost spoiled the Lady

Dolphins' flawless season if the former was able to force a draw.

At any rate, even with assistance to secure the sweep, MHS1 displayed yet another impressive performance this season and are easily the heavy favorites coming into next week's playoffs. In six games the varsity Lady Dolphins tallied up 16 goals and allowed only one against them.

KHS fell to a win-loss-draw card of 2-3-1 just behind the

See LADY on Page 27